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STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
KING'S COUNTRY,
BEING THE
Second Volume
OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEYS
OF
IRELAND.

BY
SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.

Seven British Shillings.

GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
AGRICULTURE
AND
MANUFACTURES
OF THE
KING'S COUNTY,
WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF THEIR IMPROVEMENT,

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801.

FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

The Dublin Society.

BY
SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.

*Ipſa ſatis tellus, cum dente recluditur unco,
ſufficit humorem, et gravidas cum vomere fruges.*

VIRGIL.

*The earth herſelf the plants ſupplies with juice,
If crooked teeth once make her ſurface looſe;
But floods of oil, from ſwelling berries flow,
If ploughs unlock her richer ſoils below.*

Dublin :

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1801.



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DEDICATION.

TO
LIEUTENANT GENERAL VALLANCEY,
VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE
DUBLIN SOCIETY,
Esq. Esq. Esq.

SIR,

18 Aug 30 Arg. 1250

WHERE merit so conspicuously shines,
self-evident truths supply the place of flattery ;
and every Irishman must join with me in grateful
acknowledgment of your extraordinary and un-
wearied application, in furnishing us with the
delightful review of the original history, antiqui-
ties, and literature of our country: these we
esteem no less, than we admire your extraor-
dinary skill in the oriental languages, without
which, such an enquiry could never have suc-
ceeded ; and it must be confessed, that these
a precious

precious memorials of our Nation, which you have so happily rescued, would else, more than probably, have sunk into eternal oblivion.

The extensive patronage which is now afforded to genius, and the encouragement the fine arts have received from the Dublin Society, are also indebted in no small degree to your care and assiduity; and from the earnestness which you have shewn in forwarding the Statistical Surveys of Ireland, I have taken the liberty of requesting the sanction of your name to this the second volume of that work, as an introduction to the Public view.

I am truly sensible of this honor which you have so kindly permitted, and I beg leave to add, Sir, that I am, with the most profound respect,

Your obliged,

And most obedient humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

DUBLIN,
Charlemont-street,
May 1, 1801.

PREFACE.

P R E F A C E.

THE riches and strength of a country are constituted in the number of its inhabitants employed in useful pursuits ; the most important of which is the business of agriculture, as providing the means of existence to society.

If the claim of pre-eminence shall be founded in antiquity, this science has to boast the most ancient date, nor was it then deemed incompatible with the learning of the scholar, the piety of the divine, the fame of the conqueror, or the dignity of the sovereign. But, in the luxury and depravity of the times, this important science was sunk into disrepute, or beneath the consideration of any but the laborious or uninformed peasant ; happy it is for us, that

the first and greatest characters of this age have not thought it unworthy their most serious pursuit; and the excellent treatises on agriculture which the public have been favoured with, wherein its theory has been so ably elucidated, are now reduced to practical and successful experiments, as the face of the country so conspicuously demonstrates.

To these great men who have set the example by their improvements, are we indebted for reviving a matter of such general concern to mankind; and, since the *Gentleman* and *Farmer* are now no longer incongruous terms, the necessary appendages on agriculture, as botany, chemistry, and mineralogy, are become fashionable studies, and have superseded the unprofitable levity which too lately bore the sway in our moments of pleasure, so derogatory to the wisdom and dignity of an enlightened nation.

In this enquiry, it is impossible for an individual to determine the exact situation of the country; he can only establish the ground-work, which it is very easy for resident gentlemen to perfect, by adding their remarks and opinions,
which

PREFACE.

is

which the Dublin Society are very earnest to receive, so that when all the materials shall be collected, a general and accurate return can be published in the second edition of this work, which will at one view, show the present state of the county, the mistakes in the mode of occupation, the best means of redressing them, and will also point out all those general subjects, and important discoveries, by which the great resources of the nation shall be drawn forth, and these concerns will afford sure employment, wealth, and prosperity.

The reader will see that style has not been studied, but every matter is laid down in the following sheets in the plainest and simplest language, which may be an encouragement to every experimental farmer to add his remarks, as these must be within the comprehension of every man that can read or understand. In the new edition, when the materials are collected, the tautology may be avoided which now necessarily occurs in the baronial enquiries, and the work can then be put in better dress, and digested after the most approved plan.

In

In the subjoined detail of matter for enquiry, the general heads of the plan of this work are shewn ; and, where the author has defectively laid them down, he entreats his errors or omissions may be pointed out, which shall be thankfully received, and paid due attention to, in the re-publication.

It must here be acknowledged, that the plan of this work has been taken (at the suggestion of the Dublin Society) from the Somersetshire Survey ; and it must be remarked, that neither can the Dublin Society nor the Author be answerable for the accuracy of these Reports, which have been only compiled from the opinions of the gentlemen of the county whom he consulted.

SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.



GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,
Divisions,
Climate,
Soil and Surface,
Minerals,
Water.

AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,
Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed,
Course of crops, use of oxen—how harnessed,
Markets for grain,
Use of green food in winter.

PASTURE.

Nature of it,
Breed of cattle—how far improved,
————— how far capable of further improvement,
Markets or Fairs for them,

General

General prices,
 Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter,
 Natural grasses,
 Artificial grasses,
 Mode of hay-making,
 Dairies, their produce,
 Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity fold.

FARMS.

Their size,
 Farm houses and offices,
 Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
 Nature of tenures,
 General state of leases,
 ——— of particular clauses therein,
 Taxes or Cesses paid by tenants,
 Proportion of working horses or bullocks, to the size of farms,
 General size of fields, or, enclosures,
 Nature of fences,
 Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
 Mode of draining,
 Nature of manures.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
 Number and size of villages and towns,
 Habitation, fuel, food and cloathing of the lower rank—their
 general cost,
 Price of wages, labour and provisions,
 State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what arti-
 cles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
 Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,
 State of roads, bridges, &c.,
 ——— of navigations and navigable rivers,
 ——— of fisheries,

State

- State of education, schools, and charitable institutions,
 — of absentee and resident proprietors,
 — of circulation of money or paper,
 — of farming or agricultural societies,
 — of manufactures, whether increasing,
 — of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of
 the situation of their extension,
 — of mills for every kind,
 — of plantations and planting,
 — of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to
 them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed.
 — of any improvements which may occur, for future en-
 couragement, and particularly for the preservation of the
 trees, when planted.
 — of nurseries within the county and extent of sales.
 Price of timber and state of it, in the county,
 Quantity of bog and waste ground,
 Possibility and means of improving it,
 Obstacles to it and best means of removing them,
 Habits of industry, or want of industry among the people,
 The use of the English language, whether general, or how far
 increasing.
 Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or
 places remarkable for any historical event,
 Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,
 Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and
 whether the survey is published.
 Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are
 weights assigned for measures—or *vice versa*.
 The weight or measure by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter,
 &c. are sold.

INTRODUCTION.

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INTRODUCTION.

ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

KING'S COUNTRY.

AS COLLECTED FROM SEVERAL AUTHORS.

THIS county in the most ancient history of Ireland was a part of that territory denominated Hy Falgia, in which district the counties of East and West Meath, Dublin, and Kildare were also included.

Hy Falgia is derived from Hy Bealgia, that is the country of the worshippers of Beal*.

Some years before the Christian æra, on the arrival of several Caledonian colonies under the denomination of Ullagh, a number of the ancient

VOL. II.

B

Falgii

* Beal was the sun, of the God of fire.

Falgii conducted by Eoghah Bhealogh, or Eoghah Failloch, retired across the Shannon, and established a colony at Croighan; others with their chief retired southward into the district of Coiteigh, now the King's county.

This county was also included with the Queen's county, Dublin, and Kildare, under the denomination of Hy Laioghais, the chief of which territory resided at Donamase, a particular description of which is inserted in the statistical view of the Queen's county.

It, (or as some say but the southern part only) was afterwards included in the district of Eile or

Hy Leagh, comprehending also the western part of the Queen's county, and the northern part of the county of Tipperary, thence was divided into three principalities, each governed by its paternal chief.

From whence was Eile ui Chearbhuil, which was situate in the south of this county, and west of the Sliabh Bladhma or Sleive Bloom mountains; and consequently it obtained the name of Eile ui Chearbhuil or the plain district near the rock. The chiefs of this district were called O'Carrol, under whom was a subordinate Dynast, named O'Delany, presiding over a district in the south, denominated Dal-Leagh-nui, or the district of the flat country.

These territories, whose denominations seem so barbarous to us, we find on looking into their derivations, that they are significantly applied, and undeserving

undeserving the harsh criticisms, which some authors have bestowed on them, thus, only exposing their own ignorance, by cavilling at what they did not understand.

In translating Irish names and districts into our language, there is nothing discordant, but rather sublime and highly poetic.

We find, that great tracts of this county were in the hands of various proprietors, and at length these several principalities were united into one kingdom, under the title of the kingdom of Ofaly, which included, with this, a part of the county of Kildare. It held this title for several centuries after the landing of the English, in the reign of Henry the second, and in the history of the wars which succeeded, between the English and the natives, it is often recognized as such.

Ofaly lay on the western borders of the Pale, and in 1557, in the fifth of Phillip and Mary, during the administration of Thomas Earl of Suffex was confiscated to the crown, under the title of Western Glenmallery; at the same time was the Queen's county also forfeited, under the title of Eastern Glenmallery.

This great tract of country was then divided into two districts; that part of Glenmallery, that lies by the river Io, (now the river of Maryborough) was called the Queen's shire or county, and the fort and town was named Maryborough in honour of Queen Mary; the western side was called

led the King's shire or county, and the fort of Dingen named Philipstown in compliment to King Phillip; in this shire was also included that small portion of the county of Kildare, containing what is now called the parishes of Harristown and Kilbrackan, which lands yet continue to pay cess to the King's county, and remain a part of it, though they are completely insulated by the county of Kildare.

We find this country had been the scene of wars for a length of time, and that the O'Connors, who were the ancient chiefs, kept up constant skirmishes with the royal forces, and were very troublesome neighbours to the English Pale, but at length were entirely reduced, the clan dispersed in 1558, and their territory given by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, to Teig O'Carrol, who thence became the lord of the country. This was during the last year of Queen Mary's Reign.

In seventeen years after, it is related by Ware, that the O'Connors fought to obtain their lands from the O'Carrols, and between them and their septs, the country was almost ruined. These intestine broils continued for many years, until in 1599, the Lord Lieutenant entered the county with an army of 2,500 men, and entirely subdued the O'Connors, as also the O'Mores in the Queen's county, who had rebelled; but in the succeeding year, they became as troublesome as before, when Sir Oliver Lambert came with 1000 foot

foot and 100 horse, relieved the fort of Philipstown, which had been closely besieged, and with great conduct and bravery, dispersed the insurgents on every side.

From the creation of this county into a shire, it has since had no change in the allotment of its lands, and before I proceed to its statistical description, it may not be amiss to give some account of the laws, manners, and customs of the Irish, in ancient days, which I shall briefly relate.

Laws, Customs, and a continuation of Historical relations.

† The ancient laws of Ireland were those of Tanistry and Gavelkind.

By the law of Tanistry, the chiefs of every country had no longer estate in their chiefries than for life, the inheritance of which rested in no man. These chiefries consisted of small portions of land, but principally in cuttings, and cosheries, and other exactions, by which the weaker party was spoiled and impoverished. And when the chief died, his son or next heir did not succeed him, but his tanist, who was elective, and purchased his election with a strong hand.

By the law of Gavelkind, the inferior tenements were to be divided amongst all the males
of

† These are principally taken from Sir John Davis's tracts.

of the family, both legitimate and illegitimate, utterly excluding the daughters from any share of the inheritance; and after the partition was made, if any one of the family died, his portion was not divided among his sons; but the chief of the sept made a new partition of all the lands belonging to that sept, and gave every one his part according to his antiquity.

Thus their possessions were always uncertain, being so often changed by new partitions, and was the true cause of such desolation and barbarism in the land, as consequently ensued, and also accounts why buildings and improvements did not take place, as they knew not how long they would possess them, or who was to be their heir; besides, every one, considering himself born to a landed property, scorned to descend to mechanic arts, merchandize, or husbandry; those pursuits, which render a nation wealthy or great, were consequently neglected, and the majority were but poor gentlemen, existing by theft, spoilage, extortion, and *coßhering*, which was living at free quarters on the poor and industrious tenant, for months together, with all their retinue of idle debauchees.

These laws of Tanistry and Gavelkind were abolished by judgment of the King's Bench; Anno Domini 1605.

The extortion of coigne and livery was taken for the maintenance of their warriors, and consisted of man's meat, horse meat, and money, which

which was taken from all inhabitants of the country, at the will and pleasure of the soldier. When the English became depraved, and learned this custom from the Irish, they used it with greater insolency, and made it more intolerable; and this oppression was not temporary nor limited to time or place, but because there was war in all places, and every lord made war or peace at pleasure, it became universal and perpetual, and, as Sir John Davis says, brought down heavy judgments of famine, and insurrections, which were not quelled for centuries.

This extortion of coigne and livery produced two notorious effects, making the land waste, and the people idle.

The customs of fostering and gossipred seem peculiar to the Irish, and were the causes of strong factions and combinations, tending to the ruin of a commonwealth, as by these customs they were bound to maintain one another in all cases, lawful and unlawful.

By fostering was meant the putting away all their children to fosterers, the rich man selling, and the poor man buying the alterage of their children; and the reason was, because in the opinion of this people, fostering had been always a stronger alliance than blood, and the foster children loved, and were beloved by their foster fathers, and their families, more than by their natural parents and kindred, and more freely participated of their means, and adhered unto them

in

in all fortunes with more affection and constancy.

Gossipred or compaternity ; though by the canon law it was a spiritual affinity, and a juror, who was gossip to either parties, might have been challenged as not being indifferent, yet there was no nation made so religious a use of it as the Irish.

Sellings and cuttings ; selling the kerne of the tenant's family called kernetty, of his horses, and horse boys, of his dogs, and dog boys, cuttings, tallages, or spendings, high or low at his pleasure, which made the lord an absolute tyrant, and the tenant a miserable slave.

The English, who were of the Roman catholic faith, inclined wonderfully to these laws and customs of the Irish, and adopted and practised them with great sincerity, scorning and laying aside the English language, rejecting their own names, of which they seemed ashamed, and assuming Irish surnames, in which extraordinary predilection their barons joined ; and this people afterwards became more inveterate enemies to the English than the Irish ever were, who often fought for the protection of the English, and desired a participation of their laws. But they afterwards severely smarted, many of their chiefs paying their lives as a forfeit for their perfidy and baseness, as was the case with the Earl of Desmond and others ; for in the year 1362, which was a year of plague, the Duke of Clarence, who was
chief

INTRODUCTION.

chief governor, held a famous parliament in Kilkenny, where many laws were made to punish the English colonies, and reduce them to obedience, whereby their alliance with the Irish, nurture of infants, and gossipred with the Irish, were made high treason, and, if the offender should assume an Irish name, speak the Irish language, or follow any of their fashions, his lands or tenements, if he had any, should be seized, till he should give security to chancery, to conform himself to the English manner of living; if he had no lands, his body was to be imprisoned, till he should find sureties as aforesaid.

In the reign of James the 1st, two special commissions were issued out of England for settling and quieting possessions in Ireland, one for accepting surrenders of the Irish and degenerate English, and for regranting their estates unto them, according to the course of the common law; the other for strengthening defective titles. In the execution of which commissions, there was great care taken to settle and secure the under-tenants, that there might be quiet security, and content in the establishment of every subject's estate, lord and tenant, freeholder and farmer, throughout the kingdom.

Upon surrenders they followed this course: when an Irish lord offered to surrender his country, his surrender was not immediately accepted, but a commission was awarded to enquire of three special points, first, the quantity and limits of the
land

land, next how much the lord held in demesne, and how much was possessed by his tenants and followers; and thirdly, what customs, duties, and services he yearly received out of those lands. This inquisition being made and returned, the lands, which were in demesne, were drawn into a *particular*, and his Irish duties, as cosherings, and sessings, rents of butter and oatmeal, and the like, were reasonably valued and reduced into certain sums of money, to be paid yearly in lieu thereof. This having been done, the surrender was accepted, and thereupon a grant was passed, not of the whole country as was used in former times, but of those lands only, which were found in the lord's possession, and of those certain sums of money as rent issuing out of the rest; and the lands, which were found to be possessed by the tenants, were left unto them, respectively charged with these *certain* rents only, in lieu of all uncertain Irish exactions.

In like manner, upon all grants, which past by virtue of the commission for defective titles, the commissioner took special caution to preserve the estates of all particular tenants.

After these ordinations, learning and arts, which so long had lain dormant during the turbulence of the times, again raised their heads, and science and literature dawned forth. Even agriculture we find in the 17th century was not despised, nor the reclaiming of land thought an unprofitable pursuit, though from the history of
these

these times we should not think it was of such value; yet in a treatise written in 1582 of the county of Westmeath, which is translated in the *Collectanea*, the author, talking of bog, says, it makes excellent meadow land when drained, and speaks of many important branches of husbandry we could not have thought were of use in those days. In his remarks on fences and hedges, he shews where the country is bare of them, and makes observations, which exactly apply to some of the northern counties of Ireland at this day. "The farmer will fence indeed his corn but so slightly, and without any manner of quick, that, before it can be reaped, his own and his neighbours cattle force him usually to a renewal of his labours, and if at any time he makes a fence likely to hold out a whole year, he triumphs, and with confidence pronounceth it a year's ditch, which among them passeth for a very strong fence."

The old Irish had an annual custom every May day, which they counted the first day of summer, to have a dish called *stirabout*, which was made of flour and milk, boiled thick together. This was a proof of good management, to make the corn hold, till the summer fare came in, as they concluded that milk, butter, and vegetables, which were then plenty and in season, should suffice till harvest. This custom was observed by all ranks, and it was as usual to have this dish on that day, even though they had no bread for a month before,

fore, as it is now to have plumb-pudding on Christmas day, or apples and nuts on Allhallow-eve.

They always swam their cattle on the first Sunday in harvest, inviolably observing this custom, thinking that no beast could live the whole year, with which it was not practised.

In their marriages, the parents and friends of the parties met on the side of a hill, and, having drank and made merry, agreed on the portion for the bride, which was always in cattle, and to which every one of kin subscribed more or less, taking however this precaution, that, if the bride died childless before a certain day limited by agreement, it was conditioned that every man's beast should be restored to him.

They had also many religious customs, the great superstition and idolatry of which are disgusting to relate; and their dances, games, and patrons are pretty much the same to this day.

Their funeral rites are in some parts minutely copied, as howling after the dead, during the procession to the grave, and hirelings paid for the funeral song, accompanied with all the mockery of grief, which is presently drowned in obscenity and debauchery.

I shall now conclude this introduction to the present state of the county, with a description of its ancient buildings, as recorded by Ware, and the dates of their erection.

Ancient

Ancient Buildings.

We find, that so early as anno domini 492, there was a regular monastery for Augustin canons in this county at Gallen, or Galin, in the territory of Mac Coghlan situate on the river Briffinog (now Brofna); this was founded by St. Canoc, or Mochonoc.

In 550 the monastery of St. Mary and St. Columba was founded by St. Columba called Dorough, antiently Dermagh or the field of the oak. Ware quotes Adamnanus in the life of Columba, lib. 1. cap. 3.

“ There is yet extant, as it was preserved in this abbey, a book of the four Evangelists of St. Hieroms translation, adorned with silver plates, and the inscription set forth, that it was written by the hand of St. Columba in the space of twelve days. It appears, that the canons of this abbey, at the time of the suppression and long before, were Augustins, though we allow, that St. Columba framed a rule of his own for the monks, that he placed there; the like happened to the rules instituted by St. Bredan, St. Congall, &c.”

Priory of the Holy Cross of Killeach in Ofsaly.

The Ulster annals say, that St. Sincell Mac Genenain, abbot of Killeach, died in the year

548, perhaps he was first abbot and founder of this place.

Friery of Killeigh.

Founded for minorites in the reign of Edward the First.

Nunnery of Killeigh.

Nuns of the Order of St. Augustin.

Friery of St. Mary of Kilcarmic.

A convent of Carmelites built near the river Brassinog (now Brosna) by Odo son of Nellan Mulloy in the church, wherein he himself was buried, in the year 1454.

Monasterferois or Totmory Friery.

A convent of minorites founded by John De Bermingham, Earl of Louth, in the year 1325, in that part of the county, which was called Ofaly.

Seir or Saigar Kiaran.

St. Kiaran the elder founded a monastery there, which was of great note in the very infancy of the

the Irish church. It is situate in that part of the King's county called the Elia-Carolina. The canons thereof were Augustins.

Clonmacnoife.

St. Kiaran or Ciaran the younger, of the family of the Ards, but the son of one Boetius or Boenandus a carpenter, whence he was nicknamed Macitier or mechanick's son, founded the abbey of Clonmacnoife, called at first Tiprarc, in the middle or heart, as it were, of all Ireland, Anno Domini 548, Dermot the son of Cervol king of Ireland having assigned him that place. Here St. Kiaran was abbot for one whole year, according to others seven years, and died the 8th of September 549 in the flower of his age, having lived only 33 years. Some time after, the church of this convent was made a cathedral, and it is said, that St. Kiaran was the first bishop; if this be true of the beginning of this cathedral, the date is ascertained, but, however, it presided afterwards over nine other churches in one churchyard as it were, for they sat within less than the compass of two Irish acres. At the west end of the place the succeeding bishops built their palace. The cathedral itself was without doubt anciently endowed with great livings, and the burying place of their great men, and bishops, was famous for monuments, and fine inscriptions as well in Hebrew, as Irish characters; but by
degrees

degrees it dwindled away, and became reduced to shameful poverty.

Of the bishops of this see, before the times of the English, there is little memory, but of the five preceding; and since that time 31 bishops enjoyed the see, the last of whom was Peter Wall, who died in 1568; after his death this see was by act of parliament united to the bishoprick of Meath.

There are several old castles, of which there is not any remarkable tradition; they mostly bear the date of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and will come under description just now.

I have now given a superficial sketch of the antiquities of this county, and proceed to its statistical description, following the plan of arrangement, as suggested by the Dublin Society, and which I observed in the Queen's county survey.

Confined to a particular plan of arranging this survey, it must be considered, that to avoid tautology is impossible, where so often the same matters will apply in two neighbouring counties, though in the reports of each they become entirely necessary.

If there is an evident sameness in this mode, yet will the true customs and manners of the county be found, and may not be uninteresting to partial or local concern.

In this view they ought never to be taken into consideration together, but, as if totally unconnected.

needed, and the matter only should be considered as relating to the district under immediate enquiry.

What is applicable to one is generally found so with the other; to gain credit in diversity of relation, language should be tortured and truth perverted; but the plain and simple facts are here impartially set down, and adapted to the understanding of the meanest reader. This I trust is following the intent and spirit of the design, and will be a sufficient apology for not introducing what might be more amusing, though perhaps wide of the subject, and foreign to its intent.



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STATISTICAL



STATISTICAL SURVEY

OF THE

KING'S COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES.

SECTION I.

Situation and Extent.

THE King's county is an inland county, situate in the province of Leinster; it has the counties of East and West Meath on its North, Tipperary on its South and S. West, Galway on its West, from which it is divided by the Shannon, and Kildare and the Queen's county on its Eastern bounds. It is by no means of so regular a form as the Queen's county, but very straggling, stretching considerably in a contracted compass to the Southward. Its breadth from the most eastern part of the barony of Coolestown near the Boyne to Clonmacnoise on the Shannon is 32 miles, but the more general breadth does not exceed 17, and

it is in length from the moat of Grenouge adjoining West Meath, to the southernmost part of the barony of Clonliff, 31 miles by a direct line, but above 45 miles by the nearest road, the county being so much intersected with deep bogs. The circumference is above 130 miles.

The number of acres in this county amount to 282,200 or 440 square miles; in the old assessment, as appears by the county book, there are only 155,932 acres chargeable with cels, so that the difference is 126,268 acres of bog, mountain, and waste, or not arable land, as towns, roads, water, &c. is included, or almost half the contents of the county.

This is an extraordinary proportion indeed, which shews how much yet remains to be done here, and I shall just now explain, how greatly capable it is of improvement. Little having been effected towards reclaiming land in this county, previous to the last 30 years, on a revise of this calculation, I suppose the difference would now appear but immaterial; but I expect the laudable ardour, that prevails for improvement, will materially effect a surprising change in these wastes a few years hence, as in the space of the two latter years more ground has actually been reclaimed, than had been for 30 preceding years taken together.

The average value of arable land, thro' the county, will be found to amount to 20s. per acre, and of meadow or pasture 35s. and both together 25s. The same reasons I asserted of the impossibility of obtaining an
actual

OF THE KING'S COUNTY.

3

actual return of the population of the Queen's county holds good here, as the aversion of the lower orders to counting their numbers, and their extreme bigotry is still more obstinately grounded, and almost precludes the hope of seeing it conquered in the present generation.

The number of houses in this county being about 13,700 it will be found allowing near 6 to an house that the population consists of about 76,000 souls. If we take into account the number of acres in the county, this appears but a thin return, particularly when compared with the Queen's county, which, though its contents is less by 47,000 acres, yet it exceeds the number of inhabitants in the county by 14,000; but let it be considered, that the great extent of bog and waste is nearly half the total contents, and renders so much uninhabitable.

The Slieve Bloom mountains form the eastern barrier, dividing this from the Queen's county, and the Shannon river flows majestically on the western side, making the line of separation between Leinster and Connaught. The great bog of Allen lies to the North East, and a considerable part of it stretches through this county, an imaginary line dividing it from Kildare, and this forms the great feature throughout, until you approach the Slieve Bloom, at the further extremity. The centre of the county is, with little exception, a dead flat, though lying high.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

In its superficial contents we may estimate under

	<i>Acres.</i>
Arable Lands, Pasture and Meadow,	154,700
Woods and Plantations,	- 1,000
Water,	- - - 1,000
Bog, Mountain, and waste,	- 123,500
Roads, Towns, and Villages	- 2,000
	<hr/>
	282,200
	<hr/>

Subdividing these denominations, arable land occupies one third, pasture and meadow two thirds; the meadow bears the proportion to pasture as ten to one; the cattle being mostly store fed, little hay is required.

In the division of arable, we find a farm of forty acres thus proportioned :

	<i>Acres.</i>			<i>Acres.</i>
Wheat	12	or	Wheat	6
Barley	14	—	Barley	16
Oats	10	—	Oats	14
Potatoes	4	—	Potatoes	4
	<hr/>			<hr/>
	40			40
	<hr/>			<hr/>

The acre of wheat, through the county, averages five barrels of twenty stone; barley twelve barrels of sixteen stone; oats ten barrels of fourteen stone. The barrel of potatoes varies in weight in almost every barony, but making the standard twenty stone weight, the average produce

OF THE KING'S COUNTY. 3

produce will be found fifty barrels, scarce half equal to the average of the Queen's County.

SECT. 2. *Climate.*

As it has never been proved, that in the vicinity of bogs, the air is rendered unwholesome, so no natural cause can be shewn, why the climate here should not generally be as wholesome as in any inland part of Ireland. Its distance from the sea, and its elevated situation, removes damps still farther, and the wholesome appearance of the natives proves neither their diet, nor their climate is hostile to health.

The non putrescent quality of bogs is exemplified here, in the many gross pieces of timber found at immense depths, in a state of great preservation.

Reverting to the distance between the northern and southern bounds, the more general extent of which scarce exceeds seventeen miles, there can be but little variation in seed time and harvest, which is the same throughout; the mountainous parts being little occupied in tillage, do not contradict the assertion.

SECT 3. *Division.*

THIS county is divided into eleven baronies, one of these subdivided into two half baronies, for the more easy collection of the cess, and the whole are again subdivided into town lands; their denominations are as follow :

TABLE

TABLE OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE COUNTY.

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Town Lands.</i>	the Cefs at $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per hundred Acres, amount to	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Barony of Kilcourfey contains	7,606	44		1	7
Garry Caffle - - -	23,548	167		4	$10\frac{1}{2}$
20,241 { Upper Phillipfown	12,493	24		2	$7\frac{1}{2}$
{ Lower Do. - - -	7,748	19		1	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Egliff - - - - -	8,774	49		1	10
Gefhill - - - - -	10,822	47		2	3
Balliboy - - - - -	11,517	58		2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Ballibrit - - - - -	21,600	91		4	6
Ballicowen - - - - -	12,320	43		2	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Warrenfown - - - - -	5,800	8		1	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Coolefown - - - - -	12,880	61		2	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Clonliff - - - - -	20,824	88		4	4
	<u>Acres 155,932</u>	<u>699 Town Lands.</u>	County at large £. 1 : 12 : 6		

The towns and villages in the King's County will be found in the table at the conclufion. This county was formerly represented by fix members, two for the fhire, and two for each of the borough towns of Phillipfown and Banagher. In the Imperial Parliament, two members represent the fhire, the boroughs are fruck off.

OF THE KING'S COUNTY. 7

ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION.

The ecclesiastical division is formed of the town lands, and are denominated parishes, of which there are fifty-two in the county, and these have twenty-five parish churches, or nearly one church to two parishes; they are situate in the following dioceses:

Kildare	8	18	} The names of the parishes, &c. are inserted after the Tour.
Killaloe	6	16	
Meath	10	16	
Clonfert	0	1	
Offory	1	1	
	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 52	

SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

THE general soil of the arable parts of this county, in its natural state, is not very fertile, and only rendered so, by manures of bog stuff and various composts, as will be particularly described, and requires but an attention to a proper course of crops to return a very reasonable profit. The quality of this soil is, more generally, either a deep moor or a shallow gravelly loam, the moist season being most favourable to the produce it yields, and the moors very productive in dry summers. Limestone every where abounds, in rich quarries, and limestone gravel quickly renders them the most valuable land in the country. The pastures are not very luxuriant,

riant, but kind and fattening, in their quality excellent for sheep walks, and the wool, that they yield, is not only abundant in produce, but of a very fine quality. The coarsest pasture, which is the unreclaimed moor, is highly nutritious to young cattle; but it must be remarked, however, that although in the vicinity of bogs, the air is not unwholesome, yet, where they have been reclaimed, and with thick strata of limestone gravel, although vegetation is very great, rather earlier than in upland, still corn crops are by two or three weeks, generally, later in ripening.

The surface is rather an uninterrupted flat, or dead level, unfavourable to dairy husbandry, and the corn crops are principally oats and barley. Stores and yearlings are their more general stock of black cattle; and the sheep and wool trade their most considerable pursuit; pigs are only fattened for sale by the less substantial farmers, and manufacture but partially local.

MOUNTAINS.

THE Slieve Bloom, or Slieb Bladma mountains, are those of this county, and are situate on the south eastern extremity, pointing from a N. E. to a S. W. direction; they run in a range of above fifteen miles, having but one pass, called the Gap of Glandine, which is very difficult of approach, steep and craggy, and not five feet wide.

The

The soil of this mountain, at this side, is at the extremity a cold grit, and takes a great deal of lime to render it arable; its quality is argillaceous, and interspersed thickly with rocks of freestone. This upper stratum is pretty deep, in few places less than two spades from the surface, and a siliceous substratum covers the whole range of the summit. The centre parallel has various soils, being of a light sandy loam, a stiff yellow clay, or gritty shallow gravel, and a deep brown earth, which is far the best of it, and the bottom line is always a cold, spongy, deep clay, only productive where the loam is so dry as to check the springs above; at the foot, where the declivity vanishes, is a deep irreclaimable bog, approachable but in very dry seasons. This will be found to be the more general description of this side the Slieve Bloom, but does not universally hold good; for towards the centre of this range the land is very fertile in pasture, and grazed the whole year throughout with numerous flocks of sheep and young cattle; the soil being of a limestone quality, and large rocks of that mineral thickly interspersed; neither is the bottom range boggy, but a stiff clay, where abundant crops of corn are yielded. On the mountain of Knocknaman this is the case, and also the range of Castletown, Cumber, and down to Lettybrook, which latter is some of the best land in the county: in this district, to the summit of the mountain, the land may justly be valued at fifteen shillings per acre; here is a quarry of red stone, rather flaggy, and of a soft unsolid nature, yet it is preferred for building, and out of this quarry was the stone

had

had for the house and offices of Castletown. I strongly suspect a siliceous and durable stone is underneath, not very far from the surface, fit for mill-stones, as in quarries, I have seen of that kind, answer much the resemblance of this in the upper layer, and below had good flint, or towards the western side of the hill; so it is in Cairn-More, in the Slieve Baught mountains, and is, very commonly so, in the great Welsh quarries.

A minute inspection of this great range of mountain would permit ample matter for the attention of a professed mineralogist, and throw a light on that science in this country, of what riches we may possess without knowing their value.

On this side of the mountain, the land is far less productive than that of the Queen's county, and its occupation is of very little moment, being in most places only tenable to cattle in very dry seasons; but from their extent, and great height, the leading features of this country are constituted, and they are possessed of every natural beauty peculiar to mountains, and in the variety of their wilds, are calculated to excite admiration, and well worth the attention of the natural philosopher.

WOODS.

There are no woods but at Killeigh, and those comprised in ornamental plantations, as at Charleville, yet no quantity of very old timber is here. On the borders of the county, adjoining Tipperary, is a good appearance
of

of wood, but yet does not amount to any that is very old. Cangor has the oldest and grossest timber, and much of this has made way for young plantations; Knocknamafe has some old, valuable timber, but the greater part of the wood in this county is ornamental, and in demesne lands, though originally its whole face was one uninterrupted forest, of which it bears evident marks to this day; the alder was natural to the soil, and a small patch of its ancient forest, which has quite the venerable appearance of antiquity, stands yet protected in the park at Droughtville.

BOG AND MOOR.

In a county so extensively covered with bog, there can be no lack of fuel, which is supplied in the greatest abundance, and of the very best kind; the nature of these bogs producing an excellent and lasting manure for themselves, when calcined, and for the uplands, either calcined or in mud or clay. The formidable appearance of such extensive tracts may at first sight discourage the improver, and indeed seems even unconquerable by Herculean labour and perseverance, but when we examine their quality, we find that we have unjustly attributed to them obstacles, which are commonly found in bogs, and where they exist, render their being reclaimed quite impracticable, as is the case where
bogs

bogs lie low and have no natural drains to carry off their waters; here they have the best natural falls, and for a considerable distance from the borders of the upland, we find the soil only moory, and shallow, capable of being made the best meadow, at a trifling expense, which one crop would well repay: the great and universal remedy for it, which is limestone gravel, nature has kindly thrown small heaps of, at convenient distances, in the midst of the moors, and these tufted mounds, so conspicuously scattered on the surface, seem as if they had been purposely deposited there to reclaim them; if we deduct the quantity of this valuable soil from what appears to be the bogs, in this country, an immense tract of valuable land is acquired, fit for all the purposes of husbandry, and will be found more productive either in pasture or tillage, than the general run of the best lands in the county.

In the subsoil of these bogs have been discovered saline particles, and alkali in their ashes, as communicated to me by an ingenious gentleman, who analyzed them; but it is to be remarked, that this was found to be always the case in the vicinity of springs, to which he attributed its existence. The power of tanning, which bog in general possesses, has been proved by various experiments, and perhaps its waters, as well as the heath, which more certainly acts upon the leather, have no small share in the process, from the astringent quality which they possess; these matters are best known to the people engaged in this pursuit, as I am told is the case
in

in the Highlands of Scotland, and that there, they use no other but bog water in tanning; I think it establishes the principle, though they may not account for it by chemical arguments or deductions, yet they certainly would not prefer it, if experience did not convince them of its superior efficacy. Another proof of it is, that bog water is unfavourable to vegetation, and if thrown on the surface will destroy vegetables with its acidity, or rather with the gallic matter it contains, which it ought to be purged of, before bog stuff is used as a manure, this is done by exposing it to the air, or depositing it where pure water can flow on it.

The great condensing effect of lime on bog, we have numerous accounts of; here we have it from ocular proof, and where it was cultivated, it had sunk near two feet below its level, or I should say below the level of the remaining part of the tract that was drained, preparatory to reclaiming, but had not yet been limed; in this case, the more caustic the lime is, the quicker is the effect.

Limestone gravel will have the same, though not so rapid an effect as hot lime; but I think still a surer one, for here, surface and consistency is more certainly gained, and aquatic plants destroyed, to which, from its gravity, as well as other properties, that limestone possesses, it is an inveterate enemy; and there can be no greater proof than the rich carpets of white clover and trefoil, which naturally appear after this manure, and generate an herbage of the greatest sweetness, and in
other

other parts, heath, rushes, and all kinds of aquatic and bog plants, are in abundance, and occasionally serve for various purposes; almost all these bogs are grazed by store cattle, in the summer months, as a commonage, but few yield any rent to their proprietors.

SECT. 5. *Minerals, &c.*

THE mineralogical produce of this county will be found more worthy of remark in the Slieve Bloom mountains, to the riches of which I am a stranger, nor does the knowledge or tradition of the county assist the information; there are no coal mines discovered, as in the Queen's county, nor have I seen any but inferior minerals, as manganese, iron ores, in very small appearance, ochre, marl, chalk, limestone, freestone, and potter's clay.

SECT. 6. *Water.*

THIS county is well watered, by wholesome springs, and many chalybeate wells are interspersed through the bogs. The silver streams of the Brosna, which takes its rise in the county of Westmeath, fertilize the fine country, through which it winds, and its waters are discharged into the Shannon, which great river, for a long way, forms the western barrier, and flows through spacious banks, magnificently beautiful and picturesque; the

the *Brosna may be said more particularly to belong to this county, as it winds through its centre.

It is also touched on by the Boyne, on the N. E. near Edenderry, and on the borders of Kildare county; and the Barrow is the line of separation from the Queen's county, near Portarlinton; several lesser streams water the interior, and Lough Pallis, in the barony of Ballyboy, is the only lake, but of inconsiderable extent; Lough Anna, in part, belongs to this county, as the divisional line, between this and the Queen's county, passes through its centre. Numerous glens are formed by rapid mountain streams, which only flow in wet weather, and their fall is generally as sudden as their rise; many of these are discharged into Knockarly river, which sometimes appears but an inconsiderable stream, but when swelled, with the mountain floods, it becomes a tremendous river, sometimes rising several feet perpendicular, and carrying off every thing on its banks, that opposes its progress. The bed of the river, from the violence of these floods, has been completely changed of late years, and baffles all the art and labour of the proprietors on its banks, to restrain it within its original channel.

With this happy diversity of water, there is contrasted every variety of irregularity of ground, which I have no where seen so remarkably peculiar, and the many young and thriving plantations have indeed given a rich appearance to a country, which has latterly been

as

* This word, in the Erse language, means a bundle of sticks, but I cannot conceive the analogy in the present instance.

as little remarkable for, as formerly it was overrun with forest. The alder seems to have been the natural tree of the country, and almost in every parish are to be seen vestiges of its pre-eminence; it always was peculiar to the banks of rivers, or watery situations.

CHAPTER II.

STATE OF PROPERTY.

Estates and Tenures.

THE estates in this county produce from ten thousand to fifty pounds per annum; they are generally very large properties, and in one instance, is a whole barony, that of Geshill, one estate, Lord Viscount Digby being the proprietor. Not so as in the Queen's county, do we find great tracts improved and ornamented, in consequence of a gentry residing at home, nor do we so generally see these estates, which are not resided on by their proprietors, in as flourishing a condition as *there* is the case, which evidently argues, that the tenantry *here* are denied indulgencies and incitements to improvement, which is granted to them on absentee property *in the other county*.

But yet a great similarity exists in the more general distribution of tenures, in respect of the circumstances of the holders, who form a considerable part of the most respectable community of this county, and enjoy

their lands in perpetuity, from very ancient date, possessing now a more valuable property than the proprietor, who holds the fee.

These are, in general, the guardians of every thing, that makes a county respectable, and who from their residence, wealth, and local experience, best know what to advise, and by their example at home, have proved themselves of the first importance to their district. Happy is it for this country, it has such men to manage their concerns, and without them, the very few great proprietors, who reside, would necessarily be insufficient to the weighty care of its interest. The lands here are, in part, leased on lives, part on years, or both; the remainder, which is not very considerable, is occupied by the holders of the fee. All the various ills, resulting from alienation, are here conspicuous, as will be particularly shewn in the annexed tour.

CHAPTER III.

BUILDINGS.

THE mansions in this county are not very splendid, nor is there any public building of note.

Lord Viscount Charleville is collecting the materials for a magnificent edifice, the plan promising every thing of splendour and taste, and worthy of so noble a demesne. The farm yard is nearly finished, which with the offices, will be of a suitable style, and in the best situation.

Several ruins, of what were considered splendid in their day, are yet to be seen, but few modern buildings of distinguished architecture.

Additions have been erected to Leap Castle, which have highly ornamented that ancient building, preserving the antique, where it was proper externally, and giving all the elegance and convenience of modern architecture to the interior.

The peasants cots are throughout miserably poor and wretched, in few instances weather proof, yet fondly clung to by the natives, who are attached to them from custom, and perhaps also from the warmth occasioned by their smoke and lowness, as

they prefer living in them to neat slate lodges and farm houses, which some gentry have erected as an ornament to their demesnes, and also with the view of bettering the condition of the cottagers. In many places are these lodges uninhabited, which proves the actual aversion of the peasantry, to relinquish their ancient state of uncivilization.

A thatch of straw is the more general covering; perhaps in this age of improvement, the time may arrive, when the value of straw, as a manure, will be better esteemed, and houses defended with a cheaper and more lasting covering.

If proprietors would insist on having decent farm houses on their estates, and liberally contribute to their erection, to be covered with slate or tile, either or both of which, every county in Ireland abounds with, then would the straw be returned to the soil, and the land receive this natural restorative, which is withheld, (if we compare the long run of expense) to our certain and manifest loss. In the erection of these farm houses, particular attention ought to be paid, to divide the sleeping rooms, which is of the first consequence towards establishing decency and modesty, and in their present disposition is totally neglected, still bearing a distinguishing mark of the unreclaimed barbarity, and uncivilization of the peasantry of Ireland.

CHAPTER IV.

MODE OF OCCUPATION.

SECT. I. *Size of Farms, Character of Farmers.*

FARMS were formerly very large in this district; it was not uncommon for one person to hold one thousand or fifteen hundred acres, but their size is now very considerably curtailed, and may be rated from ten to four hundred acres; large farms may have, in the mean, about two hundred and fifty, and small plots about twenty. The more considerable occupation of large farms is in sheep walk, and the smaller in tillage, very little being under dairy.

The character of farmers is certainly praise worthy as to industry, and their farms are generally let to them at such rents, as make it the interest of the tenant to give the land fair play; but still they are strangely attached to old customs, and notwithstanding the evident superiority, which their masters have shown, in the cultivation of potatoes, by drilling, in a very capital manner, yet they do

do not chuse to adopt it, because they say their forefathers did well without it.

The driest lands are generally appropriated to tillage, and the low lands to pasture. Wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, are their usual crops. Potatoes is cultivated above and below, and this seed they sow every third year in moory ground, to refresh it, or it will in time dwindle very obviously.

They have lately, in all, improved husbandry, introduced rye grass for their early herbage, which comes in full a month before the natural grass of the county, and gives a good spring food for their ewes and lambs.

Wherever limestone gravel has been applied, it improves a sound sheep walk, and will naturally throw up trefoil; this herbage is also produced from burning only in the moors.

SECT. 2. *Rent.*

RENT is due on Lady day and Michaelmas; or on the first of May and November; and is paid in bank notes or bills. Some small farmers pay rent with their own and their horses labour, when they live under a resident gentleman; there is no condition in their lease obliging them to labour, but left at their own option. Cottiers have seldom any lease, or article, and make a verbal bargain with their landlord, which is only binding as long as the parties chuse mutually to remain together, and of course, their personal service
is

is the consideration. In the baronies of Garrycastle and Kilcoursey they are well inclined to manufacture; in other parts, the women are mostly idle and slothful, and scarce at all assist in making up the rent, except in harvest time. The money, which is acquired in this manner, is more generally considered their exclusive right for dress and finery, with few exceptions, so that the farmer himself must depend on his own labour for the various calls, which he is liable to.

SECT. 3. *Tithes.*

THE grievance I have particularly spoken of in the Queen's County Reports, applies here in a very obvious manner, and the peasants are more evidently preyed on by the brood of proctors, each of whom have a certain profit. This seems the greatest evil in the system, justly deserving complaint, and worthy the most serious attention towards its redress. I really apprehend, it would be a very difficult matter to mislead the lower orders of country folk, was there a reasonable modification of tithe, and they seem one and all discontented, not so much with the institution, as the severe mode of collecting the tax, which is here unusually oppressive. I mean not in the least to attach any blame to the incumbent; it is out of his power to redress it: when the lease is executed to the proctor, and where the alienation does not proceed further, then the grounds of complaint seldom exist. I have seen several instances of this, particularly

larly in the parish of Clonsheek, or Clonchurch, now united to Geshill, where a large district is under the collection of one person, the Rev. Mr. Harpur, a dissenting clergyman; and, as a proof of his humanity and forbearance, he remained at home, safe, though unprotected, in the midst of a disaffected country, during the whole of the rebellion, and has had his tithes regularly paid, which would always be the case, were there no exaction.

As land is taken, liable to this imposition, we cannot complain that the principle is in itself a hardship; this is certainly not for the consideration of the tenant, as it is equal to him to whom this charge is paid, and he must know that if the land is tithe free, the rent will of course be proportionably encreased; were it a land-tax, or regular annual sum, in which the proctors were not concerned, I doubt not but it would be paid as cheerfully, as any other imposition whatever. If this is the case, how much ought a modus be encouraged, as, where it prevails, so does concord and unanimity, and there is no occasion for the interference of a proctor. But the farming tithe leases, through so many hands, necessarily produce rack rents, and cause all the evils and discontent, that flow from the system, which it would be a wise policy to adopt a remedy for.

If the proprietor of the land was suffered to purchase this charge on his estate, in like manner as the quit-rent tax, there might a fund be established, the interest of which would be amply equivalent to the proper support,
and

and even encreased maintenance of the clergy, and the security would be guaranteed to them by government. We have no reason to doubt, that the policy of the measure would be seen by the proprietors, whose public spirit would induce them to effectually co-operate in this plan; as it invariably has been shewn in whatever was attempted for the national benefit.

SECT. 4. *Establishment for the Poor.*

By regular acts of vestry, it has been agreed, in consequence of the late scarcity for two succeeding years, that the poor of each parish should be badged, and that a voluntary subscription should be made, to purchase provisions, and retail them at a reduced price to those, who were able to pay a certain proportion, and to distribute gratis to those, who, from age or infirmities, were unable to provide for their own support. This very laudable institution, however, was only intended to exist so long as the scarcity should prevail, and argues the necessity of a perpetual establishment for this purpose, which deserves to occupy our serious attention, lest our non-compliance should induce the legislature to impose the tax of poor rates, which is considered, in England, by far a greater grievance than tithes, and, from its uncontrouled extent, seems to be an intolerable burthen. In times of ease and plenty, it is well to lay by a provision against the day of want, and this certainly ought to be the work of the whole

whole community. A certain sum to be weekly subscribed by every individual in the parish, able to work for bread, whether male or female, should be handed over to a treasurer, and he be obliged to procure work for those requiring it. This would amount to a very considerable sum, fully sufficient to answer the support of the poor, and for the relief of the subscribers, should sickness or any other casualty befall them.

Mr. Pew's twenty minutes advice on the poor laws of England, deserve to be made public, which I have done in the Queen's County Reports, by the desire of the Dublin Society, and which, by the same authority and direction, I now insert here, for the benefit of this county, in hopes that they shall see the probable benefits would result from an institution, to be founded on the following plan, which would doubtless produce, to the community at large, the happiest effects, and preclude the necessity of poor rates, that probably might be found oppressive and severe.



Heads of Mr. PEW's twenty minutes advice on the
POOR LAWS.

" 1st. That a proper officer be appointed for such extent of district as he may be supposed conveniently to superintend, to take a list of the names and places of abode,

abode, of all males above the age of eighteen, and of all females above the age of seventeen years, in the same manner as the list is made out for the militia.

“ 2d. That every such male pay two-pence per week, and every such female three farthings or one penny per week, in the hands of the above officer, for the purposes hereafter to be specified.

“ 3d. That the above officer shall be empowered to furnish employment for all such as are willing to work, and who cannot find it for themselves.

“ Whether this officer should be chosen annually in rotation, after the manner of an overseer, or whether he should be a permanent officer, upon an adequate salary, will be a matter of future consideration, but if the latter, he should be paid by the community, and not out of the fund.

“ 4th. All the poor being thus sure of employment, the master or mistress, for whom they work, should be justified in retaining these sums respectively out of their wages; and, whether they do so or not, they should (in default of the individual) be answerable to the officer for its payment; all masters and mistresses of families should in like manner be answerable for their servants; and all keepers of lodging houses, &c. for their inmates.

“ 5th. These sums should be carried weekly to the general treasurer of the *division*, who should give sufficient security for the same.

“ 6th.

“ 6th. Out of this fund, every male, who is really incapable of labour, should (by virtue of a certificate from the above officer) have A RIGHT TO DEMAND from the treasurer five shillings per week for the first six months, should his illness last so long, and four shillings per week after that period, until he again becomes capable of labour.

“ Every female should have A RIGHT TO DEMAND 2s. 6d. per week for the first six months, and, afterwards 2s. per week, until she was again able to work; she should be entitled to four weeks full pay at every lying-in.

“ Every male above the age of sixty-five years, whether capable of labour or not, should be entitled to 4s. per week during life. Every female should, after the same age, be entitled to receive 2s. per week during life.

“ 7th. Any person having three children under nine years of age, should be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week, until the eldest should have attained the age of nine years; and if he has more than three under that age, he should be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week for each, above that number; and if any one or more of his children should happen to be ideotick, insane, or otherwise so far disabled either in body or mind, as to be utterly incapable of labour, each of them should be considered as under the age of nine years, and paid for accordingly.

“ If a mother should be left a widow, with three children under nine years of age, she should be entitled
to

to receive 5s.; if with two children, 3s.; and if with one child, 1s. 6d. per week; if with more than three under that age, 1s. for each above that number: it being admitted that all her time is taken up by three, and allowance made for it, but that she is capable of looking after and taking care of a greater number. The wives of men serving in the militia, and in the army or navy, should, during the absence of their husbands, be considered and provided for in all respects as widows.

“ If a child should be left an orphan under nine years of age, 2s. per week shall be allowed from the fund for its maintenance; if more than one of the same family, 1s. 6d. per week for each, above that number. As there is probably no less friendship amongst the lower than amongst the higher orders of society, it would generally happen, that some friend or relation of the deceased would gladly take charge of the children, provided they could do so without essential loss to themselves: this regulation would effectually prevent that loss, and to compensate in some degree, for the want of parental affection, 6d. per week more is allowed for the maintenance of an orphan, or a family of orphans, than for a child or family of children, who still retain their mother. If, however, any beings should be so uncommonly unfortunate as not to be thus adopted, the officer above mentioned should be obliged to provide a receptacle for them, which he will always be able to do for the sum or sums above mentioned.

“ 8th.

“ 8th. All children above nine years of age, if in health, should they have no parents, or their parents are not able to provide for them, be put out after the manner of parish apprentices.

“ 9th. All persons neglecting or refusing to pay their contribution, should be committed to hard labour, in the house of correction, for the space of ———

“ 10th. If the fund should any time fall short of the necessary demands upon it, the deficiency should be made up by a parish rate, collected in the same manner as at present, but without any sense of obligation on the part of the multitude, (for there would be NO POOR) who should in all cases receive their relief IN THE NATURE OF A DEMAND.

“ 11th. If the fund (as most probably would happen) should increase beyond the necessary demands upon it, the surplus should on no account be diverted to any other purpose than the benefit of the subscribers. But when the price of grain exceeded that, which brings it easily within the reach of the multitude, every person, who had three children, or more, under nine years of age, should have a right to demand such a sum, in proportion to the number of his family, as would reduce the various necessities of life (taking wheat as a standard) to a moderate price: and indeed, I think, in all cases, when the price of grain exceeds that proportion, at which the industrious labourer can afford to come to market, sound policy, as well as common humanity, requires that all large families should be entitled

to

to receive such a sum as above specified, although it should be necessary to collect a rate for the purpose."

This system certainly would not apply in every instance to Ireland; the rate would be nearly one half too high, and it would require several material alterations. The wives and children of militia men are already provided for by act of parliament, but an excellent establishment for the poor might be formed from the heads of these rules; and, if such a modification was adopted, and the example set by the proprietor of a large estate, making it a binding clause on the residents on his lands to observe certain rules, the happiest consequences would doubtless be the result, and would soon be generally followed.

SECT. 5. *Leases.*

The manner, whereby tenements are holden, is by lease, which is made either for a certain term of years, most generally thirty-one, or for lives, or for both. Twenty-one years, or a life, seems to be the favourite mode at present; thirty-one years, or three lives, is the more general and more ancient term, and some hold for lives renewable for ever, paying a certain sum, renewal fine, on the fall of each life; in small takes, this fine is equal to half a year's rent; and, in larger ones, they amount to a pretty considerable sum. Rents are, generally speaking, well paid; on large properties,
it

it is always customary to allow the tenant half a year's rent to trade on, interest free, or what is termed, the back half year, that is, that he shall not pay the rent was due at March, till the September following, and this to continue during the will and pleasure of the landlord. In some instances, it has held good during the lease, but there are several examples, when it has been called in, that it has entirely ruined the tenant, who seldom has a provision made ready for this demand. It thus would seem to be the interest of the tenant, not to be allowed this indulgence, which renders him the complete slave of his landlord, who can hold this threat in terrorem, having all the absolute power of a tyrant, which can be assumed at pleasure; and, if there was an interest in the lease to the tenant, either by his improvements, or the encreasing value of land, how few of their slender capitals would be able to stand the shock of an ejectionment for a year's rent. I only mention those possibilities, which it might be wise to guard against; I do not say such is the motive with proprietors in granting the indulgence, but I assert, there are instances where the tenant has been distressed and aggrieved, nay destroyed, in being obliged to pay up his back half year's rent; and, let the motive be good or bad, or necessitous or tyrannical, the consequence is the same to him, which he dearly pays for.

CLAUSES IN LEASES.

To permit the landlord and his servants to look for game, and to search for mines and minerals; making compensation for damage.

To reserve to him all timber and royalties.

The tenant to pay all taxes and cesses, made or to be made during his lease.

* Not to alienate, under penalty of double rent, or forfeiture of lease.

To perform rent and service at manor court.

To grind corn at manor mill.

The obliging the tenant to restore the straw to the soil, would be a most excellent clause, that ought to be insisted on; but the number of curious clauses we see in English leases, would never apply here; such as restricting the tenant to sell potatoes or hay; not to convert old pasture to tillage; to take but three crops from the arable before it is let out to grafs; not to sow rape, hemp, or flax (as being exhausters of land); the

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former

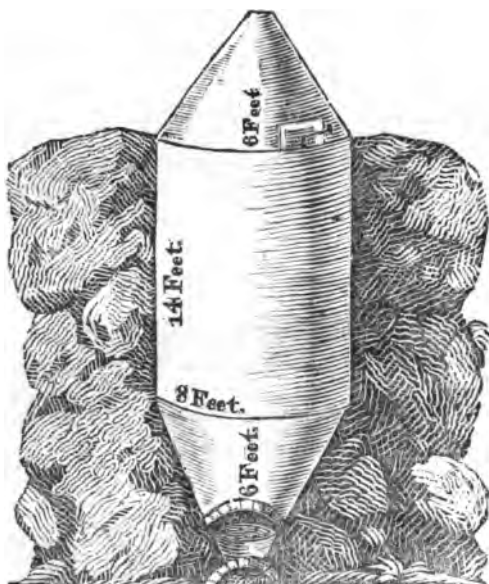
* This seldom applies but in new leases, where the proprietors are absentees; leases made by resident proprietors have seldom any other clauses, but those usual between landlord and tenant. If the rent and the renewal fines are paid, the tenant gets no trouble about any other particular.

former of these crops is considered by us as greatly to enrich ground; to feed and mow grafs alternately, and numerous other restrictive clauses, which, in that land of liberty, are yet insisted on, with all the rigour of ancient and feudal tyranny.



IMPROVED LIME KILN,
INVENTED BY
THOMAS JAMES RAWSON, ESQ.
OF CARDINGTON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF KILDARE.

To face page 35—King's County Survey.



A lime kiln should be made as high as the situation of the ground will admit; 20 feet is better than 16, 30 better than 20. The sides should be perpendicular. The annexed view is for 20 feet high; the proportions should vary with the height. At bottom a metal plate with holes, should be placed six inches above the lower part, to admit air, and for the shovel to run on in drawing.

The drawing part should be six feet; width, 8 feet; perpendicular sides, 14 feet; on the head a cap is placed, formed like an extinguisher, brought to a hole at top of 12 inches diameter; in the side of the cap an iron door, with a latch is placed, to admit the charging the kiln, and to be kept close shut. A kiln built on this plan will burn 9 barrels of lime for each of culm, and any sized stones may be thrown in. Two active labourers must attend it.

CHAPTER V.

IMPLEMENTS.

BUT a few gentlemen have any improved implements of husbandry; those in general use are of the oldest date, and badly calculated for their various purposes. The length of the beam in the plough is very distressing to cattle, and renders it unwieldy to the holder; indeed very little good ploughing is seen here. Their harrow is always light and single. There are two excellent threshing machines in the county, which, as well as other improved implements, will be described where they apply, in the annexed tour. Cost of plough about $1\frac{1}{2}$ guinea, harrow 13s., scab or spade 3s. $9\frac{1}{2}d.$, shovel 2s. $8\frac{1}{2}d.$, fork 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}d.$, rake 10d. These are the most general implements of husbandry, which they think are fully adequate to answer their various purposes.

CHAPTER VI.

INCLOSING FENCES, &c.

AS improved husbandry is now the general concern and pursuit with the gentry, so in no instance is it more obvious, than in their fences and inclosures, which they take great pains with. Their ditches are kept well scoured and quicked with one or two rows of quicks, plashed and trimmed with judgment and neatness. The more general run of farms are tolerably fenced; the white-thorn grows to uncommon size in some of these soils, but the dykes are too little attended to, and they take no pains to lay or dress the thorn. On church lands there is a total neglect of fences of every kind, as indeed there is of all improvement.

Quicks are sold for three and four shillings the thousand, which will plant about twenty perches; the cost of ditching 14*d.* to 18*d.* per perch, six feet deep, six feet wide at top, and two feet at bottom. But, from the slovenly manner, in which the clay is thrown up wet, in a great bank, it generally tumbles every rain. To avoid this, when the clay is wet, or muddy,
or

or boggy, they should, after throwing up one or two spades depth of wet stuff, let it remain till the water has drained off, and the clay grown hard and firm; then throw up as much more, and leave it in like manner to dry; by which means, it having time to harden before more moisture comes on it, it will never yield to the rain. The perpetual labour and repairs, which the other mode requires, is discouraging to keeping their ditches in order.

WALLS.

Dry walls of stone, sodded at top, is another fence, which is durable when dashed, and, when stone is convenient, is not very costly; about eight or nine perch, two feet and a half wide at bottom, reduced to eighteen inches at top, and six feet high. But, as all handicrafts are more generally paid by the day for their labour, there are no regular prices for these different items.

FENCES.

In demesne lands are all the various fences of nets, wicker work, sunk fences, &c.; but these are made more for ornament than use, and are expensive, requiring constant repair. In bogs, the ditches are planted at top, and have a dyke at either side, and the breast quicked. This serves for a good screen,
and

and throws up rapid shelter. In fine, they have all the requisites and materials for the best fences. White thorn is naturally luxuriant, but their indolence in this improvement is very unpardonable, and their plenty of turf fuel should be an argument for the care of their fences, as there would be so little inducement for the spoliation of hedges, when turf can be had at much less trouble and danger.

OFFICES.

There are some good farm-yards in the county, but, in general, little attention is paid to this important concern. If cattle were housed more, an immense quantity of manure might be saved, and, where plantations are, a great deal of soil might be cut. Soil cattle, particularly at night, in houses, and they amply repay your trouble with their manure.

There is very little to be recommended in the disposition of offices, or inward convenience or neatness, except in those of some gentlemen of fortune; and, as improvement in agriculture is but in an infant state here, we cannot expect its progress will be so rapid as to work a sudden reform in its various dependencies. These only follow where capital is in hand, and Irish farmers must be shewn the way to grow rich, before these subsequent effects can be expected. Want of capital, rather than, a want of spirit or of industry, is the great impediment to our prosperity; and tracing the

the cause of this misfortune further, or to its source, we find it proceeds from the landlord, in two respects, either by setting his land at too high a price, or to a man of straw, who only will give too great a rent; or by permitting his immediate tenant to alienate, and thus it comes into the possession of a man of straw, whose whole time and exertions are insufficient to procure the rack rent it is subjected to; and were he but a daily labourer, or a cottier, (where he is best calculated for, he might be more happy and independent, and the land in the hands of those, who would be able to do it justice; and thus each individual, from the Lord to the peasant, would feel its good effects, and with it, of course, a gradual progress in national wealth and prosperity.

LIMESTONE GRAVEL AS A MANURE.

The most general manure of this county, is limestone gravel, for upland, and a gritty soil; the influence this manure works is really surprising, as I shall shew an instance of just now, and its acknowledged pre-eminence in the moors proves its extraordinary value. The best kind is that clay, the quality of which is very calcareous, and of a mixture of white and yellow, feels heavy, easily worked into putty, and thickly interspersed with gravel, and both large and small stones; it most generally is found in hillocks, or at the foot of hills,
and

and has a strong smell when turned up ; it is also very heavy, and will ferment with acids. Burning this gravel in heaps, with the paring of the moors, will produce an extraordinary crop, but then surface is not gained, which is so very material in repressing aquatic plants, which it is otherwise liable to.

The incorporation of this gravel in the natural soil is the principal matter to be done, as it gives a consistency it cannot otherwise acquire, and the frequent sprinkling the surface with this dressing, after being got into grass, and fed off, will be found particularly beneficial ; I am clear, and I am warranted in the assertion, by the opinion of the most sensible and best experienced practitioners, that moor reclaimed after this manner, having been previously drained and burned, has become the most valuable, and in all seasons, the most certain ground in the county, particularly for grass or green crops.

Lime, mixed with earth or bog stuff, is an excellent manure for the uplands. Indeed, bog stuff mixed with dung, is their more general compost, or bog stuff solely. Limestone gravel is now the favourite manure, and justly so ; its virtue is every where conspicuous ; but in high grounds, where the upper stratum is a deep limestone bottom, *there*, bog stuff is the best manure.

ROADS.

The regular breadth of county roads ought to be, at least, twenty-one feet, and in many instances this is not complied

complied with. Roads are very numerous in consequence of the great tracts of bog, which so often intersect the country, but they are, from their numbers, but in very poor repair; frequently being so crossed by bog streams, they would require numerous bridges to be erected, which would be an expence the county could not afford; to remedy this, they lay pieces of bog timber across, and then cover them with hurdles and gravel, this must consequently be dangerous, and in the barony of Gefhill, and part of Upper Philipstown, the neglect is shameful and highly reprehensible; where these kind of bridges fail, as is often the case, the road is impassable for a carriage, and in travelling by night, many serious accidents occur. Their cess for roads and bridges is collected off the baronies, and in some cases off the county at large, but a material difference is apparent between the state of the Queen's county and here. Improvement and civilization are the concomitants with a resident gentry, which benefit a great tract of *that* country enjoys.

In beholding the great capabilities of the King's county, that are now lying dormant, a melancholy reflection occurs, that such sources of wealth should be neglected and almost abandoned by their possessors, which, if brought into action, would render this county valuable in every branch of husbandry.

MOWING, REAPING, AND THRESHING.

Mowing is most commonly engaged for by task work, and the average price per acre is four shillings, with the allowance of milk or beer; two mowers will cut above an acre per day.

Reaping is paid for by daily hire, and varies from ten pence to two shillings per day, according to the demand for labour, and diet is always included.

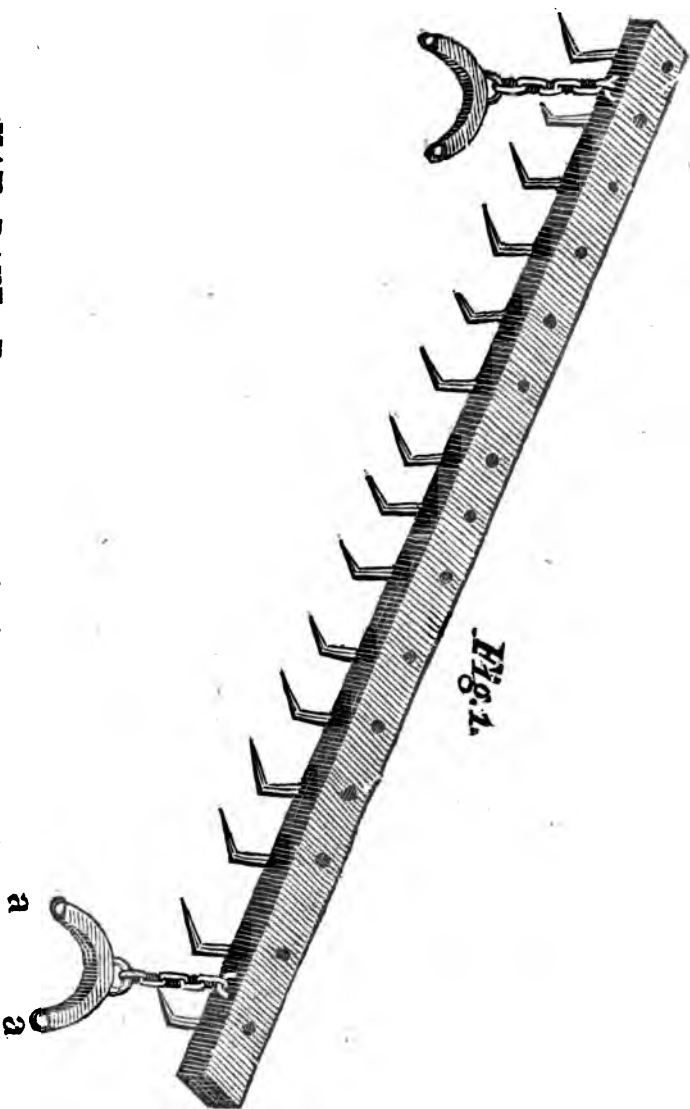
Threshing is paid for both by daily hire, and by the barrel, wheat, one shilling; oats, eight pence; bere and barley, ten pence.

WAGES.

All other species of rural work is engaged for by daily labour; rates of the county, cottiers wages, from four pence to eight pence per day; they pay for a house and acre of garden from twenty to fifty shillings; for a cow's grafs from twenty to forty shillings; and they are allowed to keep a pig, a calf, and poultry, which may be rated worth two guineas per annum.

The daily labourers, who are not cottiers, have none of these privileges, and are paid from ten pence to thirteen pence, and fifteen pence per day, accordingly, as labour is in demand, sometimes with or without diet. Extensive farmers have a number of labourers, called servants, who are paid from four to eight guineas per annum; they have lodging and diet, every day three meals, Sundays included; this description of labourers are always unmarried, and are generally the most handy and able lads, used to every kind of country work.

In



HAY RAKE, Drawn by one Horse, from eight to ten Feet long.

a. a. Eyes to receive the Hooks of the Swindle-Tree.



In diet is considered meat two days in the week, this is always the fattest bacon.

Having now sketched the general heads of rural business and its relations, I proceed to a more minute detail, replying to those queries suggested by the Dublin Society, under a baronial return, in which they are regularly ranged.

CHAPTER VII.

BARONY OF CLONLISK.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THE soil of this barony is of three kinds, limestone gravel, bog, and a gritty clay, rather cold and heathy, it is consequently easily worked by cattle; cottiers tillage is most considerable; their plough is drawn by two horses; some of the gentry plough the moors with light heifers, but the two horse plough is in more general use; their tillage has not been considerable, and till lately, little more of each species of grain sowed than answered home consumption; but the high price of corn in latter years, has induced many to till, and they now sow a great quantity of barley, which supplies two very extensive distilleries in this barony. Their course of crops commences with turnips, which gives their sheep green food all the winter; next potatoes and wheat; barley and oats are the last crops, with which their ground is again let out into grass. The heavy yoke, which is so laborious to the hinder bullocks, is not used here,

here, and the leaders swindletrees are very light, and supported by a bow from the neck of the hinder ones, yet this mode is capable of improvement, as being not altogether free from unnecessary labour to the hinder cattle; but there is very little ploughing with more than two heifers, or horses; the common Irish plough, which is badly proportioned, the old harrow and short spade, are their implements of husbandry. Their corn is generally threshed by the flail. — Lewis, Esq. of Myrtle Grove, has erected a threshing machine, worked by four horses, which threshes and cleans fifty barrels per day, of oats, and proportionably of other grain; it is after the Dublin Society's plan. As I have spoken of Mr. Lewis, and am under the head of tillage, I must not omit his great improvement and mode of reclaiming moor, on which he has successfully expended some thousand pounds; as also those of William Minchin, Esq. of Green Hills, who has a large tract of land in both this and the adjoining county of Tipperary. Those gentlemen have shewn their neighbours the practicability of making the choicest meadow of the moors, which stretch considerably to the northward; they begin by cutting drains about three feet deep, and eighteen inches wide, in dry frosty weather, and these trenches have a good fall; they next skin the surface pretty deep, and burn it in heaps, mix the ashes with a loamy limestone gravel, which here is abundant, and of the very best quality, being highly calcareous; sow a crop of turnips and rye grass about July; this ground now becomes

comes worth four guineas per acre, in one season, though it never yielded six pence value before; the succeeding year it produces fine meadow, and the seed of the rye grass pays very well; if they are not anxious to have it in grass so soon, they give the ground the advantage of two or three successive green crops, which tillage and incorporation of compost the moors certainly require; no land, after this process, yields more valuable meadow, and naturally throws up white clover, and shamrock, in great abundance, and should it grow coarse, has in itself an inexhaustible source of manure, by burning again and tilling as before; but it is to be observed, this only is to be apprehended by too suddenly letting out into grass, for should it have the advantage of two or three vegetable crops, it never again returns to its original coarseness. I apprehend, were it frequently gravelled, after being reclaimed, it would be of the most certain good effect, as it is evident, the warm quality of the limestone best agrees with the moor, and by frequent strata laid on, it acquires such a steady consistency, as would, doubtless, insure its permanence. The distilleries are the chief markets for their oats and barley; what little wheat they have is sold in Roscrea and Nenagh. Their acre of oats yields ten barrels, and on an average of seven years back, was in value from five pence to eight pence per stone, this year not included; wheat acre from five to six barrels, at thirty shillings per barrel; barley from ten to twelve, at sixteen and twenty shillings per barrel; potatoes

potatoes average two pence per stone, and no vegetable crop cultivated for winter food, but turnips. In the upper part of the barony, near Shinrone, their ground is first broken for potatoes, where they sow no other vegetable crop, and lay down with wheat, which is here in more abundance, but as you leave Tipperary side, the land becomes much lighter.

MANAGEMENT OF SOIL.

The soil of this country being peculiarly adapted to sheep walk, it ought therefore to be particularly our pursuit. Farms should be proportioned accordingly, in extensive walks, and the tillage principally confined to the moors: this would certainly insure a great portion of waste to be reclaimed annually, and to be made the most valuable and certain land, and the soil would, in a rapid process, be occupied by stock, for which, in every point of view, it seems particularly adapted; let your vegetable crops have a due proportion of the Swedish turnip, which will stand sound and firm long after the common field turnip is rotten and destroyed by the severity of the weather; but be careful to sow it early in May: in one respect only its management differs from the common turnip, that it is considerably heavier and firmer, than any other kind.

There is ample work for the peasantry, in the reclaiming of bog or moor, if to a small portion of upland, which

which might be let to them, they had a range of bog, for so many years rent free, for the reclaiming of it, it would be a stimulus to their improvement, which is so peculiarly defirable in this country.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THEIR pasture is rich, and taken much pains with, and their breed of sheep is very good, and considerably improved; but in the upper part of the barony, the stock has by no means so good an appearance. Black cattle are also improving by the importation of English bulls of a fine breed, but not in the same proportion as the former; much yet remains to be done by better attention to stock, but at present the emulation is for the finest sheep: their breed of horses, near Tipperary county, is declining, as land is too valuable there to be appropriated to brood mares, but near Shinrone, they breed their own horses, particularly for the saddle, and have a very fine kind in this vicinity. Roscrea, and Nenagh, which are both situate in the county of Tipperary, are their market towns, and extremely well supplied, where also the farmer has a quick demand for all his commodities. Their general price of sheep, when shorn, is from twenty to forty shillings. The prices of black cattle are regulated by the price of beef in Cork and Limerick. Smithfield market regulates

lates their sheep and black cattle, in spring. They fatten their bullocks, on an average, but to five cwt.; cows to four, and four and an half; when after the grafs is consumed, they house the cattle and feed with diffillery produce, which supplies a good deal of manure. Plough and milch cattle are housed from December to May. The number of bullocks and cows, fattened in this barony, do not exceed one thousand five hundred, but a great many of this number are slaughtered for home use, the country being much inhabited by gentry and wealthy farmers; but the sheep, sent to Dublin and Limerick, exceed fifteen thousand; however, the exact calculation of this cannot be formed, as so many principal feeders here have farms in Tipperary also, to which their stock is often occasionally removed; an acre of sheep walk would be well stocked with four sheep, five are now called a collop, and till lately, that denomination included seven. White clover and trefoil are natural to this soil, and luxuriant rye grafs, which has been introduced, agrees well with it, and as it comes in so early, is found very valuable; it is made into hay with very little difficulty. Gentlemen farmers are now much in the habit of saving it green, after the English fashion; the natural grafs, being foggy and full of much herbage, is more tedious in its process, and requires much attention, in bad weather, to save it at all; but all is tramped in the field till the harvest is got up. The produce of their dairies is no more than answers family consumption, they being entirely engaged in the feed-

ing line, and their cattle being sent alive from hence, occasions but a small sale of hides or tallow, at home. Their wool is very fine and excellent, and for these some years past is regularly advancing in value, and bears the best price; it is now, previous to Ballinasloe fair, bought up from twenty to twenty-two shillings the stone, of sixteen pounds. The quantity sold is very considerable, and purchased by the manufacturers in Carrick-on-Suir, Limerick, or Cork, with whom they have a constant trade. They generally stone with two and an half fleeces, but, though this year's produce is esteemed light, Mr. Lewis, of Myrtle Grove, has stoned with two fleeces only, from the Leicestershire breed. In the upper part of the barony, the pasture is but light, and formerly there were large dairies, but the high price of corn has induced the holders to till their land, which is principally under barley and oats, all of which two large distilleries, at Kilcommin, annually consume, and their wheat is sold at Mr. Doolan's mills, at Killoge, which are extensive and breast shot, able to manufacture eight thousand barrels annually. They buy in calves here, and sell out at three years old, and this succession is kept up. They have little upland meadow in this part, and 'tis tedious in sowing; clover and trefoil are also natural, but not so abundant. Implements of husbandry the same throughout the barony. This soil is much better calculated for tillage than nearer Tipperary. Their wheat acre yields from five to eight barrels; oats ten to twelve; and barley twelve
to

to sixteen. A very fine vein of ground is, however, in this neighbourhood, and not inferior to the best in the county: the town land is called Curraghlanty, and is the estate of Trinity College; 'tis farmed by Thomas Spinner, Esq. and Mr. Doolan, of Killoge, and well adapted for feeding, in parts of which are acres, which will fat a cow to six or seven cwt.

PLOUGH WITH HEIFERS.

In the ploughing of the moors, procure light heifers, spayed, they are best adapted for this soil; oxen are too tardy and heavy, and will sink; horses are too apt to bounce and pull unkindly, when the ground is not firm; by yoking them from the forehead, they will do more work than horses; besides, they will consume considerably less food, and two will, in general, plough the moors, four need never be exceeded; they could easily be trained to be drove with reins, and the labour of a boy to drive them thus saved; this is practised with success, in parts of England, and also in France. If it was calculated, how much waste land could be reclaimed in a year, by the labour of one man, we would be more fond of trying experiments to reduce labour; thus the means of subsistence would be increased, and with it population, which is the true and genuine riches of a nation.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

THE size of farms runs from ten to four hundred acres, formerly this country was let out in very large farms; Mr. Lloyd, of Gloster, who many years represented this county in parliament, remembers about three thousand acres of pasture, in possession of four farmers, which are now let in above one hundred distinct plots, and all under tillage; gentlemen of fortune are nice and exact as to their offices. The tenants invariably repair their dwellings, and their leases are for three lives or thirty-one years, except some old leases, which are let for ever at a low rent, and have become a more valuable estate to the tenant than the proprietor; a farm with advantage of up and low lands, would set from thirty to forty shillings per acre. All taxes and cesses are paid by the tenants; the proportion of plough cattle to the size of farms, is two horses to twenty or thirty acres, but near a third of this is pasture and meadow, and the soil is not stubborn; their tillage fields are from four to ten acres, generally, but the store pastures are of great extent, as a considerable quantity is thrown into one walk. The fences are ditches with white thorn hedges, which are pretty close and well kept. They drain their moors by rectangular cuts, at short distances, and cut off the springs effectually; when the sides of this cut becomes firm, they fill it with stones, and make ground over it.

Bog



Bog stuff, mixed with lime, is very good manure for the uplands; gravel and burnt beatin answers the moors extremely well; little marl here, and when found, is very deep in the ground, and in moory soils; but limestone gravel, of a loamy quality, answers every purpose of manure, and is in the greatest abundance. In the upper part of the barony, farms are of similar description in size, but the habitations of the peasantry are miserably poor indeed.

In new leases, they must restore the straw to the soil, and are restrained from burning the surface, which answers so well both in up and low land, that they pay the forfeit, and find it still to their advantage. They are also prohibited from alienating under forfeiture of lease: They never yoke but two head of cattle in their ploughs, except wheat fallow. Their fields run from eight to twenty acres, except about Cangor and Curraghlanty; fences are very indifferently attended to, and there is little or no improvement in the moors, if we except the reclaimed part of Derinclare bog, which has been brought to yield good meadow, by draining and gravelling only; gravel, bog stuff, and lime mixed, manure their upland potatoe ground,

TURNIPS.

The great importance of preserving turnips for spring food cannot be too much attended to, and by sowing a crop late in August, they will remain good in the field
till

till the middle of May : the advantage of having turnips until the seed time is now universally felt, and acknowledged, and it may be acceptable to shew the method of saving them after turning out of the field, if the early crop should be so abundant.

Pitting them, like potatoes, well covered with straw, before the clay is thrown over them, has been successfully done; but stacking them with dry straw has also been recommended; one load of straw is sufficient for forty tons of turnips. The method is as follows, and is recommended by the Bath Agricultural Society.

After drawing the turnips in February, cut off the tops and tap roots (which may be given to sheep) and let them lie a few days in the field, as no weather will hurt them.

Then, on a layer of straw, next the ground, place a layer of turnips, two feet thick, and then another layer of straw, and so on alternately, till you have brought the heap to a point; care must be taken to turn up the edges of the layers of straw, to prevent the turnips from rolling out; cover the top with long straw, and it will serve as a thatch for the whole.

In this method, as the straw imbibes the moisture exhaled from the roots, all vegetation will be prevented, and the turnips nearly as good in May, as when first drawn from the field. If straw be scarce, old stubble, &c. will answer the same purpose.

But the true method of sowing turnips, is to sow with the broad cast, and hoe twice at least, always giving the land

land a preparation of ashes, either burnt on the surface, or carted to it. The latter method will avoid the penalty of burning uplands. See next chapter, Mr. Darby's method of sowing with the drill plough.

The drilling turnips, as we see from Mr. Young's Reports, in rows of four feet asunder, and twelve inches from turnip to turnip, having twice horse hoed, and twice hand hoed the crop, returned a produce so considerable as thirty-six tons nine hundred weight per English acre.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is very populous; no uncommon thing for a poor man to have eight children. The late rebellion not having actually broken out here, may account for the number of hands, which there is no want of in the harvest time; and it is to the credit of the gentry, who did not desert their habitations in this crisis, but, by a proper firmness, maintained their authority at home, and kept the ill disposed in due order and regularity. Shinrone is the only town in the barony, and is the joint estate of Sir Lawrence Parsons, Baronet, and John Lloyd, Esq. of Glofter; 'tis aptly situate for trade; had it but the advantage of inland navigation, I know of no country, that would be so much benefited, as, for a want of competition amongst the corn buyers, the few, who purchase, can regulate the prices to their own
advantage,

advantage, and thus have an unfair monopoly by combination. There were, till lately, two tan-yards, a malt-house, and distillery in this town, but all are now unemployed. A classical school has lately been opened by Mr. Carroll, scholar of Trinity College, Dublin. Here is a handsome church, attended by a numerous congregation, and a market-house, but no weekly markets held, though it has a patent for that purpose. All the wheat of the country is manufactured at Killoge mills, and the two great distilleries at Kilcommin consume the barley, and also the entire of the oats, which leaves little other provision for the poor but potatoes. Dunkerrin is a clean village, the estate of Thomas Rolleston, Esq. who is a very considerable landed proprietor. No species of manufacture here, and the only public building is a good church; 'tis four miles distant from Roscrea. Moneygall, about two miles further, is the estate of William Minchin, Esq. of Green Hills, and borders the county of Tipperary, but, like Dunkerrin, is of inconsiderable extent. Kilcommin is another village, the estate of Jackson Ray Atkinson, Esq. of Cangor, and has two very extensive distilleries: Mr. George Smith, and Mr. Davis, the proprietors. Formerly there were tan-yards in this village, but now neglected. Brosna is a very mean village, which gives name to the beautiful river, that waters it; 'tis the estate of John Lloyd, Esq. of Glofter. The habitations of the lower order throughout the barony are mean and indifferent; in many places, but hovels covered

vered with fods and bog-rush, but turf fuel is plenty and very cheap. Their food, potatoes, and they have but little oatmeal or milk. Cloathing, coarse frizes and stuffs. Cost of potatoes, generally from 3s. 6d. the barrel of twenty-four stone, to 5s.; and of oatmeal, from 12s. to 16s. per cwt. Clothing, since the commencement of the war, rising every year. The more wealthy farmers live well, but dirty, and they all refuse to inhabit slated houses, many of which have been erected by the gentry, and are very ornamental to demesnes, but that is all their use, as they prefer their clay huts. The peasantry are extremely illiterate, yet in due obedience to the laws. The cottier pays for a cabin and an acre of ground, thirty shillings, the like sum for the grafs of one cow, and he has sixpence per day through the year, and eightpence if no grafs. If he has none of these advantages, he is termed a spalpeen; his wages are ninepence in winter, and a shilling in summer. The use of spirits is rapidly declining, and ale or strong beer the substitute. The roads are in tolerable order, but have been greatly neglected since the rebellion; and the bridges are very narrow, and so low, as to cast much back water on the adjoining meadows. The bridge of Shinrone is very bad, and so remarkably low, and ill constructed, as leaves it a public nuisance, which ought to be redressed by the county. Mr. Atkinson, of Cangor, is, I have since heard, rebuilding it at his private expence. When an individual shews such spirited exertions, he will doubtless meet the support,

as he deserves the thanks, of all his neighbours. No appearances of mines or minerals, nor are there any fisheries, or navigation. The charter school, near Dunkerrin, is well attended to; 'tis a strong building, on an eminence over the village, and, should occasion require, would make a good stand for a garrison, as being admirably situated to make effectual resistance. The land proprietors are fond of improvement, and residing at home. Clonmel, Limerick, and Waterford bank notes are current for 3s. 9d $\frac{1}{2}$., 6s., 9s., and upwards, as are all Dublin notes; but for some years little specie has appeared. Through this barony are found no manufacturers, but a few serge weavers. The women spin much worsted, and sell it to the manufacturers in Roscrea, but this country has great advantages for a prosperous woollen factory, as every requisite is on the spot; the want of a market is indeed a principal obstacle, for, since premiums have been discontinued at Maryborough in the Queen's County, the county, though never but in a small degree engaged in manufacture, has evidently felt the loss. Killoge mills are the only bolting mills in the barony, in the upper part of which there are some good mill-sites, and abundance of water; but near Tipperary county they have no good falls, and but one very indifferent site, near Myrtle Grove, where stood a grist-mill, now in ruins. I do not find, that any plantations were made here in expectations of premiums from the Dublin Society, but the country has a good appearance of timber, and gentlemen

glemen have now their own nurseries, and plant their demesnes well; near Dunkerrin are also two nurseries for sale. The borders of this barony, next Tipperary, are very well wooded, and have a beautiful appearance. The soil of the whole country is favourable for trees; at Cangor is a fine wood, mostly oak, within the demesne, and covers above one hundred and fifty acres. The timber is excellent, and very gross, fit for any use; a good deal is felling, and the lime-tree is found to be durable for outside work, and is very abundant here; it also works well for furniture, and takes a beautiful dye. The prices of oak of the best quality 3*s.* 6*d.* per foot, inferior 2*s.* 2*d.*; beech and elm 2*s.* 6*d.*; fir and larch 1*s.* 6*d.*; oak-bark ten guineas per ton, and a great demand for timber of all sorts, as the country is so very populous, but, excepting at Cangor, it is not to be purchased in the barony. This demesne is very fine, being planted in avenues, has not the most modern appearance; it is extensive and well inclosed. The ground is of a good soil, and fit for any purpose; the meadowing is well worth eight guineas per acre, and the adjoining moors are easily reclaimed, and, when they have been burnt, are richly spread with clover and trefoil, which are naturally produced. This place was remarkable for fine fruit and orcharding, and shews the great attention of experienced Englishmen, who constantly had it in care. The estate has but lately come into the possession of Mr. Atkinson, the present proprietor, who shews a correct and elegant taste in the valuable

valuable improvements he has in hands ; nor is he less attentive to the comforts of his tenants, for whom he has built neat and warm houses, and voluntarily raised their daily wages three-pence per man. The children here are constantly employed ; industry and content seem to prevail together. An elegant mansion is now erecting on the ruins of the old castle. Here is also a hop-garden, which has received the Dublin Society's premium ; it is now little more than one acre in extent, but in fine condition, and has before now yielded twenty-six hundred weight of hops ; then it was more extensive, but now generally the crop does not exceed twelve, the last year the produce was but four hundred weight. The old plants are at irregular distances, but the late ones are about eight feet square asunder. Mr. Atkinson has very judiciously introduced one pole in the centre of each square, and brought the runners from the four to embrace it, by which means that, which was too confined, close, and musty, has now the advantage of the air and sun ; it altogether has a very good appearance. This garden yields hops of the very best quality, but, unfortunately for this country, its natives are too fond of giving a preference to every thing foreign, and depreciating our own produce, which, on a fair investigation, will be found, in many particulars, no way inferior to those articles we import. A remarkable instance of this fatality, and our own obstinate credulity, will be seen in the following anecdote. A crop of this garden was some years ago offered for sale

sale to a neighbouring brewer, at a price far inferior, nearly one-half, to the current rate of English hops: the brewer refused to buy, except on still more depreciating terms, and, very properly, the imposition was not submitted to. The hops were afterwards purchased by a wholesale merchant in Dublin, who, on examining their quality, found them no way inferior to those imported, and being an honest man, and a lover of his country, he paid the same price as for that season's English stock. A bag of hops was purchased from this merchant by the same country brewer, (as he thought, English,) a sample of which he brought to Cangor, boasting of their superior quality; but, on emptying the bag, a pen-knife of Mr. Atkinson's, on which his name was engraved, was found in it, which had been lost in the packing, and clearly proved this to be the identical hops, which the brewer had refused at half their value, and had then purchased at the highest rate. On trial, he acknowledged his error, and gave them the best possible character, which they have ever since maintained. In vain will be the patriotic exertions of the Dublin Society, who even bribe us to our own interest, if we thus continue blind to, and undervalue those blessings, which Providence has showered on us in abundance, and given us every possible means of bringing to perfection.

I have not seen drill potatoes any where in such perfection as at Cangor; the drills are much wider asunder than usual, and are twice moulded with a two-horse plough;

plough; previous to earthing, the plough is run up the drill without a moulding-board, to loosen the soil, which is left so some days, that the weeds may wither; a moulding board is then affixed to each side of the plough, one journey completes a side of each drill; 'tis regularly and carefully done, and looks exceedingly well. In this barony the boggy moors only are waste ground, and all the lime for manure is burnt with turf. Formerly rape was sown for the seed, but, for want of buyers, it is now discouraged. If a rape-mill was established, much rape would be sown, as the soil is peculiarly favourable for it: there have been instances, when good seed could not bring 10s. per barrel of seventeen stone; but the greatest discouragement is the want of a navigation, which would remove every obstacle, that is now in the way of furthering the agriculture of this country.

Frankfort, the seat of Mr. Rolleston, is contiguous to Dunkerrin; 'tis rather antique, but a very strong situation, extremely well inclosed, and defended with a regular fortification, fosse, and draw-bridge. The adjoining parks are fine ground, and here the spirit of improvement is by no means dormant. This gentleman has another seat at Silver Hills, about four miles distant. The mansion-house of Green Hills is situated on the very verge of the county; 'tis quite modern, elegant, and spacious, and the demesne is highly ornamented with fine timber. There are several other very neat demesnes and valuable improvements in this neighbourhood,

hood, amongst which we may rate Mr. Minchin's, of Bushtown, Mr. Percy's, of Ballintemple, Mr. Pepper's, near Moneygall, and Mr. Lewis's, of Myrtle Grove. With these two latter gentlemen experimental farming has had much elucidation, and their improvements are shewn to an happy effect. The demesne of Gloster is very extensive, but low and flat; the mansion is not very modern, and the parks are well wooded. I have never seen an instance of such a rapid growth of timber as was shewn me by Mr. Lloyd, in the lawn just before the house. The river Brosna waters this demesne, but flowing through so flat a country, it very often overflows its banks, and does considerable damage: the ground throughout is rather light, but excellent for rearing sheep. Knocknamase, or Golden Grove, the elegant seat of J. Vaughan, Esq. is by far the finest demesne in the barony. The timber is beautifully disposed, and gives the richest appearance to this part of the country; the inequality of the ground is strikingly picturesque, and the most correct taste displayed through all the improvements. At Mount Eaton, the seat of J. Armstrong, Esq. is another charming demesne, possessed of every advantage, which can be seen in an inland country, and highly ornamented by the most modern and elegant improvements.

The whole of the barony, indeed, is extremely well inhabited by a spirited and wealthy gentry, who are all actively employed in the most material point, the reclaiming

claiming of their moors. 'Tis really surprizing they have not been sooner taken in hands; the whole expence of reclaiming an acre amounts but to 7*l*., which one year's meadow would well repay; and every where in the very midst of these moors, nature has kindly thrown hillocks of the gravel, with which they are manured at so trifling an expence, and such a great and certain profit. The gentry also take much pains to instil habits of industry into the peasantry; the labourers are rather slothfully inclined, and not without much difficulty, and the best stewarding, will they do the business of their employers.

The English language is spoken by all sorts; but the peasants, when conversing together, speak in their native tongue only. Grain, flour, butter, potatoes, and all articles but liquids, are sold by the stone of fourteen pounds each, and a barrel of oats is only considered to contain twelve stone weight. In the moors are several chalybeate spas, of a strong mineral taste, and have a constant scum, like iron ore; should this scum remain on linen, it retains a hue like an iron-mold: they are strongly impregnated with sulphur, as they change silver to a deep black, and, if spirits are mixed with these waters, they shew the like colour; they are esteemed wholesome, but no medical use known. This barony runs to within a mile and a half of Birr, and is divided from Ballibrit, in which barony that town is situated, by a small stream, and not by the Brosna, as has been erroneously

erroneously stated. In this country are several Danish raths, a noted one of which, in the parish of Finglafs, is called Wolfe Hill, near to which is a pass through a bog, formerly thickly wooded, called Bloody Togher, from the massacre of a large party of King William's soldiers in this defile, by the O'Carrolls, who were here the ancient clan. Benduff mountain, in the county of Tipperary, and on the borders of this, has an iron mine, but was not worked these thirty years past; 'tis pasturage almost to the summit, which is boggy. At Shinrone are vestiges of some places of considerable strength, with the ruins of a watch-tower on an artificial eminence, at some distance, but I cannot learn any historical tradition of it; and in the neighbourhood are also strong circular buildings, all situate on gravelly hills, which are rapidly undermining; they were converted into cock-pits long since, but all are now in ruins. The old castle of Cangor was noted for standing a long and obstinate siege to the Irish army, but the brave garrison was basely betrayed, and, with the castle, burnt by the barbarians.

Rathmore Castle, or the great fort, near to which is the seat of George Synge, Esq., which he farms from Mr. Westenra, was a place of first rate importance, and great strength, and is of the most antique appearance I have seen. The walls of this fort were very lofty, and encircled two acres of ground, on which stood four great towers of defence, at equal distances, and again four lesser watch towers, and a deep fosse surrounded

the whole. The floors of the castle were not arched, but made of timber, nor were the walls well built or strong, quite inferior to all the other castles, with which this country abounds, but the fortifications were by far the most considerable, and stood in such an advantageous position as could not be outflanked. The greater part of this circular wall has been pulled down by Mr. Synge, and the fosse filled up to give place to more modern improvements. This gentleman has had the Dublin Society's premium for twenty-five acres of plantation, but the soil seems very unfavourable to the growth of any forest tree, except the Scotch fir, which is vigorous. The oak is hardy, but having been cut down at three years old, to swell the trunk, it has yet a chance of thriving; within a year or two hence a better judgment can be formed of the probable success of this plantation, which, at present, cannot well be determined on. In the near approach to the house, which is planned with much taste, the young trees are very healthy, but the inequality of the ground here favours them with a shelter, which the more distant ones cannot possess, but are situate on a very bleak and exposed aspect.

At Killoge is a very powerful threshing machine, worked by water, and erected after the Society's plan; 'tis equal to thresh and clean, daily, seventy barrels of oats, and fifty of wheat.

I have not seen in this barony any field-peas, beans, or vetches, and but one field of clover, which Mr. Doolan,

of

of Killoge, informed me, was last year stocked with thirty sheep to the acre. This gentleman is a very extensive farmer; he has seldom less than one hundred acres of wheat, and fifty acres of other grain; besides, he fattens above one hundred cows annually, to an average of six cwt. His feeding ground is of excellent quality, and extends from near Shinrone to the bounds of this barony on Tipperary side, the estate of Trinity College, as already spoken of.

The old castle of Clonlisk gives name to the barony, but I cannot learn any thing remarkable of it, nor the many others with which this county abounds. Near Dunkerrin is the old castle of Rathnaveouge, once a place of great note in this county.

CHAPTER VIII.

BARONY OF BALLIBRIT.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THIS barony is north and east of Clonlisk. The soil is of two kinds, a light gravel, and a stiff clay; two horses plough the former, but they yoke four in deeper ground: horses and oxen are both used indiscriminately. The course of crops of those, who feed sheep, commence with turnips, to provide their winter's green food, next potatoes, followed by oats or bere, with which they again let out. I find they all harness their cattle as their Clonlisk neighbours, except one gentleman, Jonathan Darby, Esq. of Leap Castle, a considerable landed proprietor; he ploughs with oxen, and his peculiar method of yoke well deserves attention. The attire of the ox, in this novel system, is very simple, and is particularly described in the annexed plate. The cattle are very easily broken in to this method, and
step

YOKE FROM THE HORN.

To face page 68—King's County Survey.

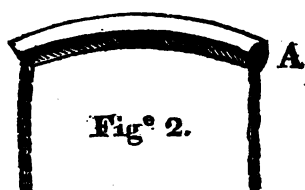
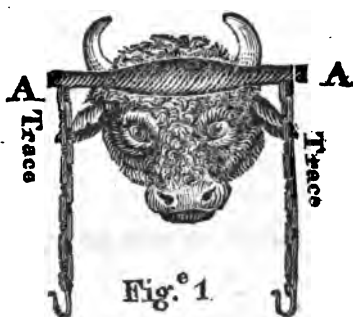
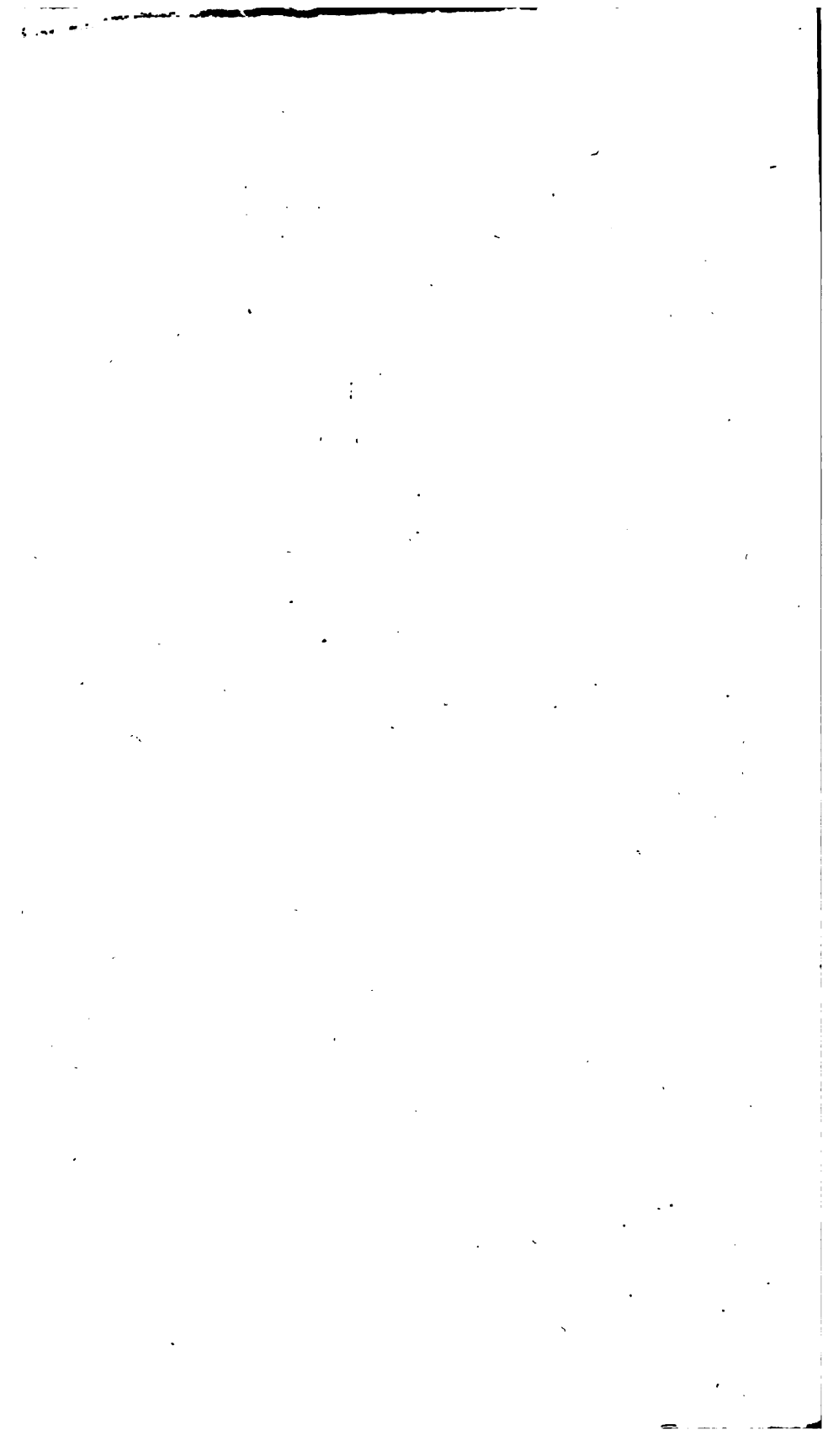


Fig. 1. This Yoke consists of a flat piece of ash, about eight inches wide in the middle, and reduced to about three inches at the ends, (falling off like the handle of a battledore,) and is proportioned in length to the size of the ox, the object being just to clear his sides from the traces, or chains, by this is meant the distance between the letters, A. A. This board is lined with woollen cloth, and stuffed with hair. To an iron staple affixed at either end is hooked a long trace or chain, which reaches from the extremities of the swindle-tree: it must be observed, that the draught is consequently from the neck, where the strength of that animal prevails, and not at all from the horns, to which the board is only strapped, to prevent its falling off; so that the ox, rather pushes than pulls in this yoke. For further particulars, and experiments, See King's County Reports, Chapter 8, Barony of Ballibritt.

Fig. 2. Represents the back-band for the horn yoke, the inside is stuffed with hair, the circles at A. are plates of iron, nailed to the wood, which is of ash, 14 inches long, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad, concaved within, to lie across the back of the ox: from either end hangs a chain of 5 links, to which the traces are hooked up.



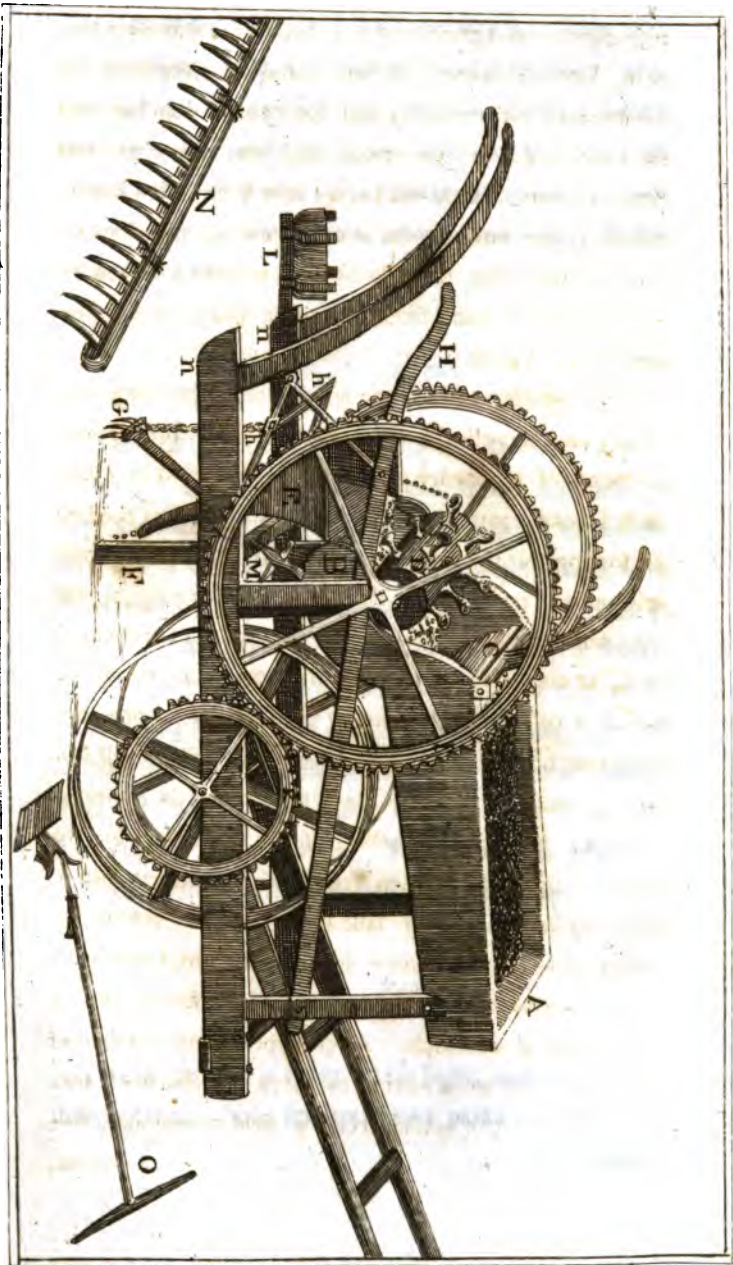
step out very free and light: though severely pressed, to prove the experiment, on a broiling summer's day, in a very heavy fallow, and up hill for a long pull, with the coulter buried to the beam, they worked quite easy, without puffing or lolling the tongue, which would have severely distressed the very best trained and strongest bullocks, if yoked in the usual way from the shoulder. When four oxen are yoked, the draft is in like manner, with long traces, and those of the leaders are supported by a strap across the shoulders of the hinder oxen: care must be observed in the choice of cattle for this mode, that their horns shall be curved, and pointing upwards, so as not to interfere with the chain or trace, and most oxen have their horns naturally of this shape. This plan has been pursued by Mr. Darby these some years past, with great success, and he is sensible of its pre-eminence, as are indeed all his neighbours. Here is a strong instance of the partiality of the Irish to their old customs; 'tis allowed, by this method, more work can be done, with less expence of tackling, and far less labour to cattle; and although the neighbouring farmers have been pressed and invited to adopt it by Mr. Darby, it is to no effect. I cannot approve of the reason the gentry give for not pursuing it; they say, their ploughmen will not come into it; but, if they are not possessed of sufficient authority to order their work to be done after their pleasure, I would recommend the trial of a pecuniary reward, which, I dare say, would have the desired effect.

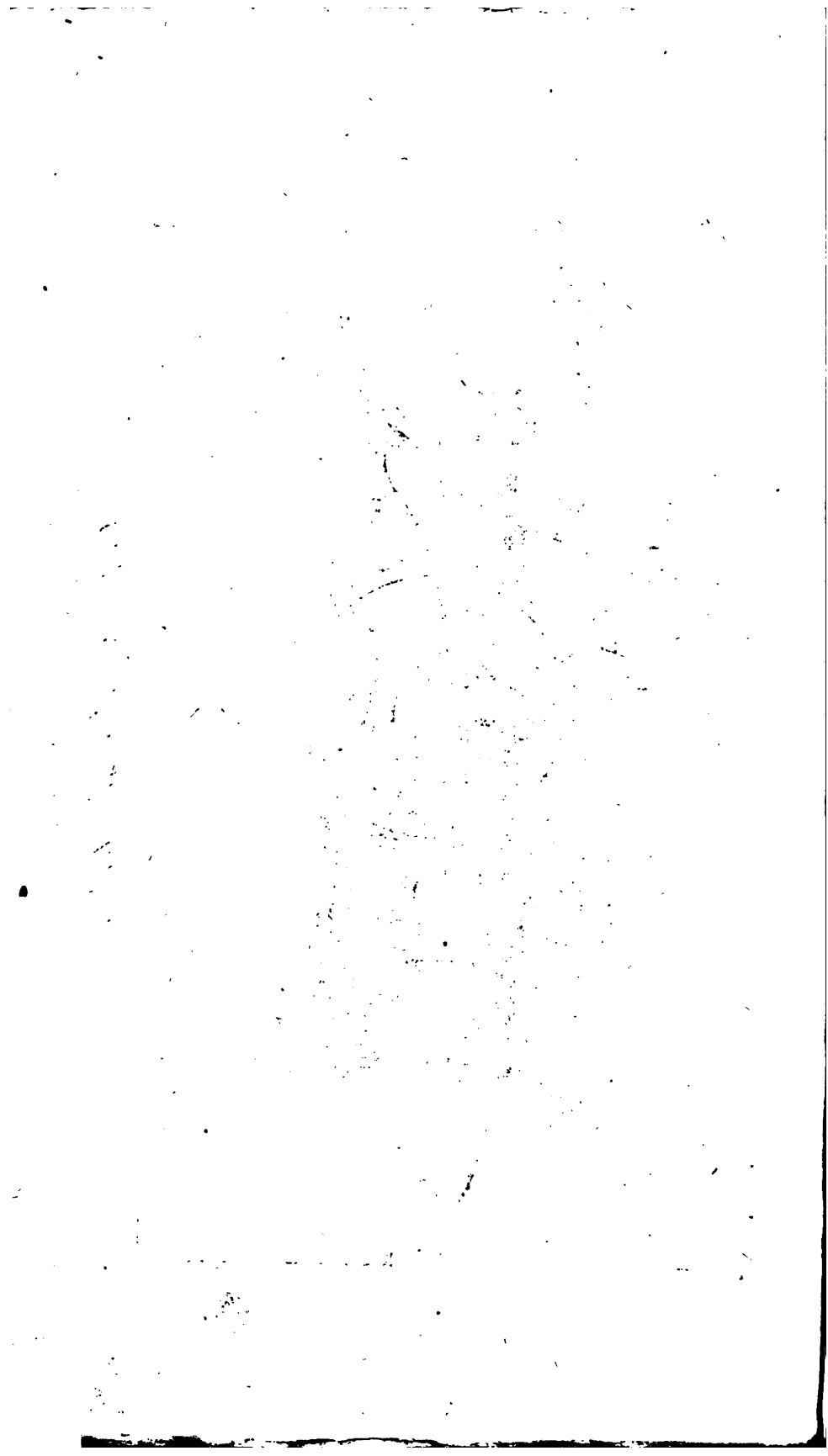
Mr.

Mr. Darby admits he took the hint from a French publication on agriculture. I believe it was after this plan, Lord Shannon first introduced the yoke from the forehead in this country, but then there was but one forehead-board for two oxen, and the long chain was hung from its centre, and except they both pulled keenly together, the smallest deviation threw all the draft on one bullock; but Mr. Darby has evidently improved it, by giving to each beast a separate yoke, as is represented in the plate.

This gentleman has also an excellent threshing machine, on a large scale, and several of the improved implements of husbandry; he sows all his grain in drills, with Cooke's patent plough, and has a peculiar method of sowing turnips: having the seed previously mixed with ashes, it is put in the hopper of the plough, and they fall together in the drill; this answers extremely well, as an abundant crop is produced from the ashes, which is only had elsewhere by burning the surface, but here four horse-load of ashes to the acre will be full sufficient, and, at the same time, the ground is enriched, not only by the introduction of the ashes, but by the dung of the sheep, which feed on the turnips: add to this, the advantage of fallowing between the drills, which next season becomes new ground, to begin with again; for with this plough the drills are formed with a mathematical exactness. A conception may be had of this admirable experiment, by sixty cart-loads of turnips having been pitted from a field containing five acres,

Barkis's Patent Drill Machine.





acres, and a full sufficiency afterwards was left to feed three hundred sheep for seven weeks. Very little rape is sown, turnips are the principal green food; with this plough but ten stone of oats, ten stone of wheat, and two pounds of turnip are sown to the acre; the wheat acre will produce five barrels on an average, oats eight to ten, barley twelve, potatoes about sixty barrels of twenty stone.

HOLLOW DRAINS.

These drains have been found very serviceable, soon making a wet spongy soil dry and sound, and able to bear any cattle in the winter. A drain is cut about two feet and a half deep, inclining to a slope at both sides downwards, from eighteen inches at top to six inches at bottom; this trench is filled with the largest stones, forced in between the sides of the drain, and covered in with paving stones, then a layer of brush-wood, &c. to support the clay, and about twelve or fourteen inches from the surface, over which is thrown the clay, that was dug out of the drain. This method is effectual, and, where stones are easily had, is very cheap.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THEIR pasture is every where light, and only fit for sheep, except those few reclaimed parks contiguous to gentlemen's

gentlemen's seats, amongst which Mr. Darby's are conspicuous, and will fat cows to five hundred weight. Some attempt to fatten bullocks, but, it is presumed, to very bad account; young store cattle will answer for this soil, and are considerably fed here. The breed of sheep is much improved by the admission of Mr. Dexter's Leicestershire rams, which are hired here every season. Black cattle are likewise improving, but horses in a greater proportion. Some Curragh stallions, of the best blood, have been purchased here, and, with a draft mare, will produce excellent cattle for the carriage or saddle. Waterford and Cork markets regulate their prices of black cattle, and Smithfield those of their sheep. They house all the winter, and feed with hay and bran when cheap. White clover is natural, and rye-grass has been latterly sown, and greatly approved of. Their mode of hay-making is generally brisk, but all tramped in the fields, except at Leap, where the grass cocks are invariably drawn into the haggard. Meadows are usually shut up the twenty-fifth of March, and mown on the first of July. Their dairies few; but towards the Sleive Bloom mountains, reclaimed dairy ground is very productive of a dry year*. Their hides and tallow, which are only produced from home consumption, are sold in the neighbouring towns, and their wool is bought by Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir manufacturers, at the best prices, as the quality is excellent.

LUCERNE.

* From the extreme coldness of this gritty soil, it is only favourable to grass in a very dry season.

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LUCERNE HARROW,

Drawn by one Horse.

**DESCRIPTION.**

- a. a. Two bars of wood, seven feet long.
b. b. b. Cross bars, one foot five inches.
c. c. Eyes to receive the hooks.
The teeth are one foot long, and it is drawn by one horse.

LUCERNE.

This soil would answer well for lucerne, where it is a sandy loam, if sowed in drills, and would be a most valuable substitute for hay: the drills should be about ten or twelve inches asunder; for two years or three it will be establishing its root, and in that time requires nice husbandry, and close attention to hoeing; it will then become so very luxuriant, that one acre of it will support five horses for the half year, with a tenth of the hay they would otherwise require, and it would be highly profitable for ewes and lambs, early in spring. This most valuable grass is now cultivated in every part of England, though with us it is not yet known; it will last for many years, and is of the greatest importance, as when the natural and other artificial grasses are burnt up in a scorching summer, it will be found particularly serviceable.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

THEIR farms are from ten to one hundred acres, except some few extensive graziers. The houses and offices of the gentry are neat, but the farm houses and cottiers huts are as miserable as elsewhere. On Mr. Darby's

Darby's estate, however, they have comfortable dwellings, which the tenants are made to keep in good repair. Leases run more generally for three lives than thirty-one years. On this estate no alienation of tenantry is permitted, which in the late rebellion had the happiest and most obvious effect; as the landlord remained secure at home, surrounded by a tenantry of his own immediate choice, and they mutually defending each other. Tenants pay all taxes; and two horses, or oxen, are proportioned to a tillage farm of twenty acres. Fences are white thorn, with a ditch, and the hedge rows are well kept, with the admission of air to the bottom of the hedge. This barony is hilly, and mostly upland, running into the Slieve Bloom mountains. The moors are of small account in the general proportion, and reclaimable by draining, gravelling, and burning: the mountains, when burnt and gravelled, will set for twenty shillings per acre, down the hill; bog stuff, mixed with lime, and corn gravel, their manures; the latter is preferred to stable dung, consequently they sell as much straw as they can. On the banks of Knockarley river, near Leap, marle is in abundance, tis found to assist tillage ground, but injurious to pasture; when mixed with acids it yields an ebullition. The peculiar excellence of corn gravel on this soil, is very obvious. I have seen a farm of a gritty soil, that swallowed great quantities of stable dung for several years, in the vain hope of producing corn, and the following experiment was tried, which fully answered: they began by sowing potatoes

potatoes on the lay, with dung, and after being dug out in November, the ground was covered with limestone gravel, and the following year yielded a second crop of potatoes, afterwards two fine crops of bere, and seven successive crops of oats, which, when let out into grass, produced naturally white clover and shamrock in the greatest abundance: it may be argued, that from the great quantities of dung, the proof was in the ground; but certainly no manure yet discovered will answer a gritty soil so well as the loamy limestone gravel. This farm was all upland grit, and the farmer, who manufactures it, has tried several experiments in manures, and has found this only succeed as I have stated.

HOGS.

Where the peasantry are so fond of rearing hogs, and their rent being in a great measure dependant on them, it may be proper to have the value of clover mentioned, which could be had on such easy terms; a small plot of clover ought to be sown in every small farm, for there is no such thing as a farmer without a cow or a pig, for either of which the soiling with the grass will be found wholesome and nutritious: half a rood of clover would, in the spring of the year, when provisions of all kinds are most scarce and dear, save half the price of the pig, which the poor man expends in bran or food for it.

Hogs

Hogs will stand on this feeding, even all the summer, and will soon have firm flesh afterwards, by getting raw potatoes, and it would be particularly serviceable to land, where they are in numbers, to fold it off with them; hogs will fat as quickly on clover as on any food, and will improve rapidly: carrots are also particularly nutritious to them, and will make their flesh as hard and firm as potatoes when given raw.

SECT 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is by no means so populous as Clonlisk, if we do not take into account the inhabitants of Birr or Parson's town, which is by far the largest in the county; here are breweries, distilleries, malt houses, cloth and serge manufactories: it has an excellent market, is also a post town, and has a barrack for two companies of foot; it is on the estate of Sir Lawrence Parsons, Bart.; formerly it was called Parson's town, and is adorned with a fine castle, at the western extremity, where Sir Lawrence resides, and around which is a charming demesne. This castle was besieged by General Sarsfield, but not carried; at the eastern end of the town, in the centre of a square, stands a stone pillar, which was erected in the year 1747, in the Doric order, on the top of which is placed a pedestrian statue of a late Duke of Cumberland, in
Roman

Roman habit; the statue is of lead, and the whole encircled with a dwarf wall, and has a spacious area.

There is no other town in the barony. At Drumoyle, which is four miles from Birr, are the ruins of a village, the estate of Mr. Vaughan, of Golden Grove: Leap, which is two miles further, is a neat village, the estate of Mr. Darby, who resides in the ancient castle of the same name, to which he has added two elegant wings, and from the rear of the castle they have a most beautiful and grand appearance; the Gothic and modern stile of architecture are blended with taste and elegance; this is an exceeding strong pass, but the adjacent hills command the castle, and are nearly within half musket shot. This castle is built on the declivity of a hill, and commands an extensive prospect from the rear. The walls of the castle are very strong, above fourteen feet thick, which have been pierced in the late improvements, and a very elegant spacious Gothic window introduced. Fuel is cheap and plenty in this country, but it is light and fuzzy; food of the peasantry, potatoes, oats and wheat-meal; their general cost regulated by Roscrea market, and latterly much cotton goods are worn by the women. The cottier's wages six pence per day, through the year; he pays forty shillings, annually, for his house, garden, and grass of a cow; these advantages are fully equal to one shilling, and many have but four pence per day, through the winter season, which proves the value of pigs, and their other privileges and perquisites. Beer in more demand than it hitherto was.

The

The roads and bridges are in tolerable repair. No appearance of mines, but there are some mineral spas, one of which, near Aghancon church, is of the same chalybeate quality as those at Shinrone, and by medical report, one degree weaker than Ballyspellin spa, and of its nature. There is no school in the barony, but at Birr. In the neighbourhood of Leap has been established a Farming Society, which commenced on the decline of the Volunteer corps, but since the late troublesome times they have not been together; they will now resume their meetings. In their plan, which comprehends the furtherance of agriculture, and improved farming, they endeavour to adjust all differences and avoid litigation. Their president is Jonathan Darby, Esq. and they would be highly gratified to receive the Dublin Society's Reports, and be enrolled under their patronage. At Leap village is an inconsiderable serge factory, and in this neighbourhood are apt situations for a woollen factory. On the banks of Knockarley river, about two miles from Leap, are Mr. Darby's bolting and oatmeal mills; they are not very extensive, and may be able to work about one thousand barrels of wheat, and the like quantity of oats; their manufacture is consumed at home: here is a machine for sifting oat-meal, worked by water, which saves much labour, but yet far from being perfect. At Fancraft is another bolting mill, Mr. Pim, the proprietor; and another, and also a rape mill, at Clonoyle, in the possession of Mr. Palmer. Near Leap is an infant nursery for sale, but very

very few plantations are in this neighbourhood. At Lettybrook, where John Armstrong Drought, Esq. resides, are some young trees, thriving well, and the lands here are very fine for fattening; adjoining them is Castletown, the estate of Thomas Bernard, Esq. who resides here. This demesne commands a fine and extensive view, and has some admirable situations for planting: I know not a demesne could be more highly ornamented with timber. The plantations already made are in full vigour. Mr. John Darby, of London, has purchased an estate here, which is taken good care of, and lately eight acres have been planted with all kinds of forest-trees. At Fortall Castle, a young wood has lately been cut, and there is a high demand for the timber. The moors are easily reclaimed, by gravelling and draining, but they never burn them, as the ashes are too light for manure. Towards the extremity of the barony, the bogs are nearly cut out by the flane; they may be said to be inexhaustible in materials for hand turf, but in this neighbourhood fuel is dear. People are here much more industrious, and in apparent tranquillity. There are many vestiges of Danish holds and castles. At St. Keyran's church, are the ruins of a monastery, as are those of a fort at Ballibrit, once a place of consequence, from whence the barony takes its name. Leap castle seems to be a place of the greatest antiquity; it is said to have its name from the following transaction: In the days, when this country was in the possession of its native Lords, their equipage was
always

always attended with footmen, who were swift runners, the country being then so covered with bogs, wood, and morasses, and having but few roads these domestics were certainly necessary and useful appendages; they were also maintained by their masters, for sports, and commonly the footmen of two clans assembled for racing, which was in those days a favourite diversion: in one of their races was a great trial of speed, in the vicinity of this castle, and after a long and fatiguing run, one of the footmen was nearly thrown out, but by an astonishing desperate leap, over a terrific glyn, he gained the race, from whence these grounds are called *the Leap*. The footman's name was Banaan, and for a long time the place was called Lemi-Banaan, which in English, signifies the Leap of Banaan. In an inquisition, held at Leap, to determine the bounds of the estate, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the record of which is in Mr. Darby's hands, it thus runs: *Inquisitio capta apud Lemi-Banaan, &c.* There are several other traditions of the derivation of this place, but they are extremely fabulous and absurd; this seems to be the most probable, and has nothing very marvellous to make its authenticity doubtful. Amongst the many neat farms and demesnes in this barony, Mr. Pike, of Dungar, Mr. Freeman's, of Summer Hill, and Mr. Jackson's, of Grange, are very conspicuous. There are several old castles, that at Glanacurragh is inhabited by Mr. Palmer; Ballyknockan castle is very strong; and fortified with a port cullis and fosse. The adjoining
lands

lands are the property of Mr. Sandford; Knock Hill, or *the Knock*, which signifies, in Irish, *the Hill*, is contiguous to Leap; it is considered to be the highest and nearly the most central part of Ireland, and is about twenty-two miles from Athlone; perhaps, from its pre-eminence, 'tis distinguished *the Knock*, as from its summit, they say, seventeen counties can be seen in clear weather, but noted objects, in fourteen counties, are easily distinguished. The graziers in this county buy in calves at one year old, which are called bullsheens, and they sell them out at three years old. They buy their cows for fattening in May, and sell out again from October to Christmas. The church of Aghancon is very neat, and was built at the joint expence of the bishop of Limerick, and Jonathan Darby, Esq.; to these gentlemen the parishioners express great obligation.

CHAPTER IX.

BARONY OF BALLIBOY.

SECT. 1. *Agriculture.*

THIS country has a wild uncultivated appearance, its miserable system of agriculture, exhausted soil, and every general subject relating to it, in a deplorably ruinous state, and its wretchedness can be easily accounted for by the enormous quantity of glebe land it possesses; that of one parish alone, amounts to eighteen hundred acres: the restriction on the incumbent is the great cause of complaint, as he has power only to make leases for twenty one years, provided his interest so long continues; but should he chance to change his living, or lose it by death or other casualty, every farm on the glebe is out of lease; consequently the object of the tenant must not be to improve the ground, but exhaust it as much as possibly he can. Can any system be more injurious to a country, or what stronger call can be on the legislature for its interposition, to impower and oblige incumbents of glebe lands to make reasonable leases

leaves? In speaking of their culture, they use, invariably, a wretched two horse plough, which rather scrapes than tills the soil, and their farms are but of inconsiderable extent; the poorer class have but two acres, which they always divide between their oats and potatoes; and a constant succession of each is their only course of crops. Bog stuff is first spread on the surface, and afterwards thinly covered with scrapings of dung, clay, and road stuff, and promises but very poorly. Tullamore, which is but six miles distant, is their market for grain, and the fairest price is given there for corn. Turnips, and rape, (the latter mostly cultivated for seed) is the green food in winter, for those who feed sheep, for which their pasture, though light, is esteemed good; but no black cattle fed here, for fattening, save by the gentry for home consumption solely.

MANUFACTURE.

If there is a tract of land in this county, where manufacture ought to be encouraged, it is in Ballyboy. The numerous disadvantages attending it, as a farming country, are serious obstacles to its improvement, and the most material of them all, is the immense proportion of glebe land, which labours under every discouragement. In the north of Ireland, where are such great tracts of church lands, the evil is in a great part remedied by the mode of occupation. Small is the interest

of the holders, in their little farms, but it is not to farming, but to *manufacture*; they are indebted for their support. A loom is portable to any spot they choose to remove to, that is their dependance, and they are indifferent as to the land, if the market of their vicinity is well supplied. Land here is favourable to flax, and were it parcelled out in small portions, and manufacture encouraged, the poor would soon become independent of farming, and their industry, for which they are as conspicuous as for their honesty, would afford them the blessings of plenty, which is now cruelly denied them; the sweets of reward would thus follow labour; industry would find employment, merit would meet its deserts, and civilization, the sure concomitant of manufacture, would gradually follow.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

PASTURE is light, they generally buy yearling heifers in the county of Clare, average price forty shillings, and sell out at three years old, at the average price of seven pounds, or send to farms of richer pasture without this barony, this being only store ground. Hitherto, no attention has been paid to the choice of stock, nor have they any idea of improving the breed, excepting the few gentry, who have certainly great merit in residing here, and some of whom have expended considerable

ble sums in reclaiming their estates; amongst these, William Curtis, Esq. of Annamore, has been very conspicuous, and his expences fall little short of £.1,500, annually, on his improvements. This gentleman has, within the last seven years, changed the face of his part of the county, having drained and gravelled a great extent of moor, and planted above fifty acres, in different enclosures, with all kinds of forest trees, which he has preserved in great heart and vigour, and they have already given a considerable woody appearance to this part of the country; but we may safely say, improvement here is but in an infant state, and until some favourable change is made in the glebe farms, the poor of this country must be wretched, and, justly, dissatisfied. Purple grass, and white clover, are natural to the soil; and rye grass has been introduced, and answers well. The hay is light and brisk, and easily saved, but in improved ground more luxuriant herbage is found; they all make tramp cocks in the field, which are let lie on the ground till very late. Dairies would certainly be productive, for every little farmer, who has but three cows, after supporting his family, will sell from one to one and an half hundred weight of butter, every season, yet nothing extensive, as yet, attempted in the kind. In Tullamore is a demand for hides, wool, tallow, or butter from hence, but the supply is inconsiderable.

RAPE.

I have seen rape very productive in such a soil as this country, and one very material advantage resulting here, the burning of glebe land is never opposed, which ensures so fine a crop of rape. The contiguity of this district, to Tullamore, where the Grand canal branches, is a further inducement to the cultivation of this crop for seed, and gives all the benefit of Dublin market. I have known a poor man to commence a course of reclaiming bog, with rape, and was not at that time worth the price of a cow; the land he was to enjoy, rent free, for fourteen years, as much as he could reclaim, and pay ten shillings per acre, for it, for seven years more; he had five sons, who, with him, gave all their after hours to the preparing a tract of the bog, for four years, and during that time, the seed he sold off the land returned him six hundred pounds, and thus established wealth, and a comfortable independence for him and his children.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

If we except Mr. Curtis, of Annamore, who principally farms his own estate, and daily employs above one hundred men; Mr. Malone, of Pallis Park, which seat
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he farms from Lord Milltown, but has a considerable estate in the barony of Ballibrit; Mr. Connor, of Mountpleasant, who also farms a large part of his estate, which is very considerable, and a few more gentlemen, we will find that the size of farms is very small, and when the glebe land does not interfere, are generally let for three lives: The non alienation here, is insisted on in all new leases, except glebe lands, but no other particular clauses, and the tenant pays all taxes and cesses. These few farmers, who have ploughs, hire them to their neighbours at five shillings and five pence per day. All tillage fields are of small size, but the walks for young cattle are of large extent, and mostly moors. The best tilled acre of wheat will produce five barrels, and in a farm of forty acres, the proportion of wheat may be about five acres. The acre of oats yields from seven to eight barrels, barley from nine to ten; average price of land fifteen shillings per acre.

BEANS.

THE poor of this country are miserably off for provisions; and how few proprietors, who may be absentees, or only hold during their incumbency, (as is the case here with the lord of the soil of this large glebe,) will take pains to instruct the poor to better their condition? It would be well, then, for their more humane neighbours to set them the example.

In

In the north of Ireland, every peasant, who has ever so small a garden, appropriates a portion of it to beans, sowed in ridges after the manner of potatoes; these come in very early, and, when boiled, and mashed with pepper, salt, milk, butter, and a little oat or bere meal, make a most excellent dish, extremely strengthening, and, in summer is very wholesome: this dish is much liked, and is also introduced in season at the tables of the wealthy. One great advantage resulting from this crop is, the temptation is not so great to attack the crops of new potatoes too soon, which is frequently, for want of good management, a serious loss to the poor man; and, in a few days, as much would be consumed, as would have answered for many weeks provision, had they remained in the ground their due time.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

ON the glebe farms the country is very populous, and but for the liberality of the few resident gentry, the poor would have literally starved this distressing season. Balliboy, which gives name to the barony, is a mean little post town, fifty-six miles from Dublin, on the Silver river; it has a patent for a weekly market on Saturdays, and also for one on the first day of each month, from May to November, but no markets are held. There was formerly a distillery, but has been long since unemployed. Frankford is a small town of better

better appearance, fifty-eight miles from Dublin, on the same river, and here is always a good demand for grain of all sorts, and a charter-school, which contains forty children. The habitations of the peasantry are poor huts, covered with bog scraws, or fods. Turf is very plenty; can be purchased ready clamped on the bog for 16s., per hundred kilshes of six score to the hundred; it is a good and lasting fuel. Cottier's wages 6d. per day through the year; he pays 20s. annually for one acre of garden, and 20s. for his cow's grafs: they have a coarse bottom grafs, saved into hay in September for their cows, which they purchase at 3s. per load, but this the cottier cuts, saves, and draws home at his own expence. Those, who have not the advantage of a cow and garden, have 8d. hire through the year. Potatoes, twenty-four stone to the barrel, generally cost 2½d. to 3d. per stone. Beer in much demand, which is had from Mountmelick breweries. There is now a new road making from Roscrea to Tullamore, which will greatly facilitate the communication. Nature of soil is limestone gravel. No mines or minerals yet discovered. The peasantry are not more illiterate than elsewhere, indeed rather improving, though so cruelly neglected; but there is no other system of education within the barony, than their small schools, except the charter-school at Frankford. If the incumbent of this vast glebe had the power of making long leases, perhaps a manufactory could be established, as at present there is nothing of the kind, and but one mill where flour is made,

made, at Ballinacarrig, near to Balliboy, Mr. Delany the proprietor. At this place there is a good stone bridge over the Silver River. Excepting the plantations of Mr. Curtis, which are rapidly encreasing, and those of Mr. O'Connor, there are none other in this barony, nor is there but one tolerable nursery for sale; the proprietor, Mr. Ryland, is tenant to Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Curtis has reared all his trees in his own nursery. Independent of the power and obligation on the incumbent of glebe lands, particularly in this instance, I know not what could be of more avail towards the extension of agriculture in these parts, than the reclaiming of the moors; and it is submitted to the Dublin Society, that if a premium was offered for that purpose, it would have the happiest effect, and would be readily caught at by numbers, who have not constant employment, and each little farm has a considerable tract of moor annexed to it. No timber at all for sale, and must be had from distant places, which makes it very dear when brought home. The poor cannot be said to want industry, as they all assiduously seek employment, and their general characteristic is the strictest honesty: they all speak the English and Irish languages with equal fluency. Adjoining Annamore is Lough Annagh, a considerable lake, two miles in circumference; the centre of it is the bounds of this and the Queen's County, and every where around are the vestiges of an extensive forest of oak and yew timber, which is found under ground, and turned to good account; great stumps of trees are also found

found in its bottom, where they are rooted. This lake is fenny at the Queen's County side, but at this side the bottom is gravelly, hard, and shelly, resembling the sea-shore; it is in winter considerably higher than in summer; several small streams flow into it, and its waters are discharged into the Silver river, which runs into the Shannon. Lough Pallis, which is also in this barony, is of much smaller extent, but remarkable for having the finest tench; it divides Mr. Malone's and Mr. O'Connor's demesnes. Near to Annamore are the ruins of the old castle of Killinany, but of no historical account.

CHAPTER X.

BARONY OF EGLISH, OR FIRCAL.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THIS barony is considerably over-run with moor ; little improvements are yet made.. They plough with seldom less than four cattle, their uplands being rather stubborn ; but, excepting a few wealthy residents, the farmers must join their cattle to make up a plough : however, the soil produces every species of corn, and is excellent for tillage. Course of crops, first, turnips ; next, one or two crops of potatoes ; for first crop the ground sets for 9*l.* per acre, and 8*l.* for the second : this is succeeded by bere ; then, fallow for wheat, two crops of oats, and wheat follows again. They find, the longer it is in tillage, the better wheat it will produce, when well fallowed. They harness their oxen with iron neck-bows ; horses with collars and hames. Birr, Frankford, and Banagher are their markets for grain. Their acre of wheat, when in heart, will produce eight barrels ; the
average

average is more than six; oats twelve, bere and barley fourteen. From Balliboy throughout this barony, the value of land may be estimated at 20s. per acre. They sow turnips constantly for winter's food for sheep. I cannot learn why this barony is called Fircal, and would be obliged by the information.

CROPS.

Their course here are a succession of vegetable crops first, and then corn crops; when fallowed, it produces good wheat: this argues the necessity of a vegetable between the corn crops, and would do away the misapplication of a fallow. The following course is recommended:

First and second, Potatoes,

Third, - - Bere,

Fourth, - - Potatoes,

Fifth, - - Wheat,

Sixth, - - Turnips, previously manured

with bog stuff; rape and turnips on the moors; the former for green food for the winter and spring.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THEIR pasture is of a light and limestone soil. Their breed of sheep shews little improvement, nor do they yet seem to have much regard to better them, as they trade constantly at fairs, and rear few lambs. Their
breed

breed of black cattle is all of the native Irish; John Drought, Esq. of Whigborough, has a very fine bull of this kind. They are not much engaged in feeding store cattle, by far the greater proportion of the barony being under tillage. General prices of lambs, 14s. average; culled ewes, 18s. to 20s.; two year old wethers, 30s. to 34s. 1½d. This country is well sheltered; housing cattle is little practised, and scarce any difference apparently between those, that were housed last winter, and those, that were without. Pasture is very kind; white clover and trefoil are natural to the soil. There is scarce any ground appropriated for dairies, and but very few black cattle fatted. At Droughtville, the seat of Thomas Drought, Esq. is the best feeding-ground in the barony. Their trade in tallow and hides indifferent, and their wool rates at the same currency as at Ballinasloe.

Moss.

It is not an easy matter here to bring upland grafs to a proper skin, and it is too apt to become hide-bound and mossy in a short time. It is therefore necessary to find a way to remedy this, without breaking up again. This is done by fixing a weight upon a very heavy harrow, and harrowing lengthways and crossways several times; this scratches the moss and the soil, after which, manure with a top dressing of any thing but lime; (as it rather favours moss in these soils), and sprinkle grafs-seeds,

seeds, which roll before rain; if the moss should be gathered in heaps and burnt, and the ashes scattered over the surface, it will be an excellent manure.

SECT. 3. *Farms,*

ARE in size from ten to fifty acres with small farmers, who hold comparatively the far greater part of the barony. The gentry have excellent houses, and their offices are generally in good order. Their leases are for three lives, or thirty-one years; but a great tract of this country is also globe land, and the same difficulties operate against improvement as in the preceding barony. Burning ground is steadily resisted. Tenants pay all cesses. Four oxen may be the proportion to thirty acres of tillage, and the fields are seldom above five acres in extent, except sheep-walks. Fences are thick and wild, but not well trimmed. The country abounds with white-thorn. Little bog is reclaimed, and never burnt, the ashes being too light and white, as all their turf is fuzzy and coarse; but limestone gravel is the principal manure, and they have excellent falls for draining. Bog-stuff agrees well with upland, when mixed with headlands and old ditches.

MARLE.

In the bogs are quantities of marle, which, if carried to the uplands, spread on the surface of land, and ploughed

ploughed in, would have the most beneficial effect. Some old sheep-walks now require breaking up, and, with this manure, would give exceeding fine corn crops. About one hundred and twenty load to the Irish acre would not be very expensive, where the marle is conveniently had, and would not exceed one guinea and a half in raising and drawing. The land is meliorated, and finely improved, and will hold so for many years. Wheat is particularly favoured with a manure of marle, with or without a previous fallow.

If the gravel from these uplands (with which they abound, of the finest quality) would be in turn removed to the moors, then would both soils be particularly bettered, and the wild and uncultivated wastes would soon become profitable farms, and shew a luxuriance of verdure they are highly capable of.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS barony is very thickly inhabited, but has no town or village. Habitations of the peasantry bear the same miserable appearance; they have abundance of turf fuel at the cheapest rate; their food principally potatoes, and they enjoy but little milk or oatmeal; meat is a luxury, only sought for at Christmas. They make frizes for their own wear only, and they purchase their coarse stuffs without the barony. The only appearance of manufacture is at Eglisli Castle, where Thomas Berry,

Berry, Esq. resides, who has an extensive bleach-green. Cottier's wages, 5*d.* per day in winter, and 6*d.* in summer. The cottier pays one guinea per annum for house and garden; should he be so fortunate as to be worth a cow, he pays one guinea for her grass, and 30*s.* for the grazing of a horse; they are all permitted the privileges of rearing pigs, a calf, and poultry. I think, on these advantages, they might live more comfortable, but I fear too much of their income goes to the dram-shop: if employers paid their labourers on Monday evening, perhaps it might tend to lessen the evil. The cost of potatoes averages 2½*d.* per stone, meal 10*s.* per cwt. for seven years back. The roads and bridges are good. Nature of soil, light gravel; no appearance of mines, but near Droughtville much fossils and shells are found in limestone quarries. Little rape is sown here, and does not thrive in these bogs for want of ashes. The propensity of the peasantry to better their state, by acquiring learning, is very evident, from the number of their little schools. Dublin bank-notes only are current, and no specie but silver change. There is but one bolting-mill in the barony, at Irish-town, Mr. Burrowes the proprietor; it is but of inconsiderable powers: and only two grist-mills, which are worked by bog-streams. At Droughtville the effects of the Dublin Society's premiums are very evident, and the plantations thriving with all possible vigour, and are extremely well inclosed. Here deal-trees, of seventy years growth; are now felling at 2*s.* 8*d.* per foot, and Mr. Drought has planted about fifty acres

more, for which he has not claimed a premium. Little timber for sale in the barony, and is brought home at a very high price. Rev. William Parsons, of Woodville, has reclaimed a great extent of bog, which now yields excellent meadow. The poor speak the English and Irish tongues with equal fluency; and, I apprehend, their want of industry is caused by their too strict adherence to their old religious customs of attendance at wakes, and abstaining from work on every description of holiday. Near Pallas inn are the ruins of a castle, and, in a small compass towards Frankford, are four more in the same state of decay, but there is no record of any historical circumstance relating to any of them. John Drought, Esq. of Whigborough, has a very neat demesne, which he has adorned with extensive plantations, and other judicious modern improvements. Thomas Berry, Esq. of English Castle, has a well circumstanced demesne, and holds a great tract of ground without the barony, principally grazed by sheep. John Berry, Esq. of Dove-grove, and Mr. Bennett, of Rath, or Thomastown, have greatly improved their seats; the latter gentleman holds a vast tract of land, that shews much experimental and successful farming, and which is still spiritedly pursued at a great expence. The ruinous system of farming tithes to many proctors is here pursued shamefully, and above one-tenth of the crop insisted on, with more than Jewish severity. At Ballinacra, the estate of Mr. Drought, of Whigborough, is a

spa of the same nature as that of Castleconnell. The soil around it is calcareous, and the water has a yellowish hue; 'tis said to be famous for drying sores or scorbutic ulcers. Another spa of this kind is at Clonbela, on the estate of Lord Sunderlin. Droughtville is happily circumstanced, and bears a striking appearance of the disposition of demesne ground in more ancient days. The natural beauties and great advantages it possesses, are shown in native purity, unassisted by art, and the groupes of conical hills, so peculiar to this spot, form a picturesque and highly ornamental scene, and render it a place of great military strength. The whole of the demesne is an irregular diversity of hill and dale, and a spacious lake covers an extensive flat at the foot of the long range of hills, which are thickly planted. Contiguous to the lake is a castle, which can be insulated at pleasure, as these waters command the district around it; it was however reduced, and demolished by Cromwell. In the deer-park are yet the remains of the alder forest, which was the native tree of the country; several of them yet remain, but now are only esteemed for their antiquity, and are rapidly decaying. Mr. Drought has liberally increased his cottiers wages full one-fourth, and has not made any additional charge for cottier's land. This gentleman pays about 600*l.* annually for labour. Here is also a brick-kiln, where bricks are manufactured for sale; price one guinea per thousand. The clay is here fit for coarse pottery.

Adjoining Droughtville is the old church of Drumcullin, now in ruins. The surrounding plains have been the scenes of bloody battles, as, within a spade's depth, vast quantities of human bones are found, and the undulating form of the ground must have rendered it a situation highly favourable for tactics.

Each height has yet the vestiges of ancient fortification, and, on a very strong rath, which commands the whole district, there remains an entire fort of most difficult access, defended by a regular and double course of works, still in great preservation.

The Rath has been planted by Mr. Drought, and has a striking effect in this truly romantic scene.

There are yet the remains of a very fine arch of curious workmanship at the entrance of Drumcullin church, but is rapidly falling to ruin, as at every funeral in the adjacent burial-ground, it is plundered of a headstone.

I have observed in the ruins of churches, the eastern wall was generally in best preservation (having seen the remark made in a Tour to the Holy Land); whether this is occasioned by its aspect, or from a superstitious notion of the builder it might have had better materials, or have been more strongly cemented, I cannot determine, but here the eastern wall is not standing, and, on enquiring the cause, I have learnt, that under it had been the monument of one of the most ancient chiefs of this country, which was purposely demolished by

by throwing down the wall on it, which over-topped it.

What pity that our ancestors could not devise better plans to secure their conquests, than so illiberally severe, to destroy every historical record of the antiquity of this once famous isle; and, whilst a stone remains of this mutilated tomb, which perhaps contains the ashes of a man eminent for piety, for learning, or for valour, an eternal reproach will be reflected on the conquerors, whose ungenerous and narrow policy induced them purposely to destroy it, only to obscure its originality.

What greater renown can accrue to a conquest, than the knowledge of the antiquities, of the literature, arts and sciences of the country acquired; and that sword which achieved the conquest, ought to be always ready to maintain it. It was not by such policy the glory of victory was regarded in heathenish days, and the renown of the conqueror vested not in the destruction, but in the preservation of whatever rendered a country famous.

Add to these motives, the desire of the vanquished natives to secure their records, with which they fled to other realms; we see the true cause why so little of the ancient history of this country is known to us: in France and Italy, where these refugees settled, will it be better found than at home. Thus, from the several vestiges of antiquity, that have yet escaped the violence of faction, or the dilapidation of time, whose date cannot
be

be ascertained, and their purposes only guessed at by the most ingenious antiquarians, we must allow that Ireland must have once been of the first-rate consequence, if learning, arts, and valour had a claim to national pre-eminence.

CHAPTER XI.

BARONY OF GARRycastle.

SECT. 1. *Agriculture.*

THIS barony is by far the most extensive in the county, but yet in value the most inconsiderable: a great proportion is but a barren rock, with scarcely a stratum of earth. Their wretched mode of tillage is with a two horse plough, and this district more generally in possession of small farmers; indeed, agriculture is not the favourite pursuit. The country abounds with linen manufacturers, in which they are almost individually somehow concerned, though few amongst them extensively so. The number of horses are but few, and the demand for them is considerable; the hire of a two horse plough is 8s. 1½d. per day, or 3s. 3d. for a man and horse. In parts where the soil is deeper, on the eastern boundary, they cultivate much wheat, for which they always fallow, and have a good produce. They generally sow the lay with potatoes, but have no drills yet; next succeeds bere, then fallow for wheat, and afterwards

wards they sow oats ; much flax is cultivated, and oats is always the last crop. They never yoke with oxen, and have none but the most common implements of husbandry. Clara, Moat, and Banagher are their market towns, for all their commodities. They cultivate no green food in winter ; their wheat acre averages five barrels ; oats, ten ; bere and barley, twelve ; potatoe ground rates at five to seven guineas per acre ; meadow land three to six pounds ; and their acre of potatoes yields thirty barrels, at forty stone to the barrel. Independent of the great tract of bog in this county, a very considerable part may be termed waste ground, which could only be reclaimed by covering the rock with soil.

CROPS.

The best course of crops for this barony, which ought to be portioned in very small farms, should be first and second crop potatoes, with manure of every kind, that can be scraped together, and a large proportion of bog mud ; third, flax ; fourth, oats.

Or oats on the lay,

Potatoes,

Flax,

Oats or bere, with which, lay down the cow pasture, and top dress with bog stuff. If lime has been introduced, white clover will follow ; and if you have limestone gravel, you may be certain of the excellence of your oats and bere.

SECT.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is but light, and in general shews much limestone gravel, which, if burnt with turf, makes an excellent manure; the Rev. Dr. Mullock, of Bellair, has used this compost several years with great success. The breed of sheep, or black cattle, is scarcely attended to, and there is but a small proportion of stock, this country being still engaged more under pasture than tillage; it affords no shelter for cattle, and is quite unqualified for them. Natural grass is light and spiry, small quantities of white clover are interspersed, which is certainly a native to the soil, as no artificial grasses have yet been introduced; meadows are very light and easily sowed, without any luxuriant herbage; tramp cocks lie on the ground till the harvest is got up. They have no trade in hides and tallow, and any little wool they have to spare is sent to Banagher and Ballinasloe.

FLAX SOILS.

It should not be despaired to see the wilds of this extensive barony, yet reclaimed, and divided into small farms; every thing here favours the linen manufacture; indeed, to reap a profit from husbandry, is almost out of
the

the question; the inhabitants are sensible that their country is better adapted for manufacture, and are wisely pursuing it, however, it is but yet in its infancy, and ought to meet every encouragement.

Though the land here is light, in the high grounds, yet they have a foil towards the moors, of a deep and cold clay, very favourable to the rearing of flax; there is a kind of peculiar moisture, without any thing of inundation, which every crop so weighty as flax, and sown so late in the spring, would require. Their clays, though they are favourable to the growth of flax, yet require to be brought into a tilth, before they become very productive, for which reason, by incorporating sand, gravel, or bog-stuff, and taking a vegetable crop previously, it will be found to answer best; potatoes or cabbage will only be expected to be raised here, and after either of these, flax will thrive very well.

Clay soils are natural to the rearing of all plants, but they must first be separated and made friable, by a mechanical or a chemical process; mixing sand or gravel will have the same effect as lime, each will separate the clay, and break up that stubborn cohesion, with which it is bound together.

Sand in itself is good for nothing as a soil, for rearing plants, but of the greatest utility in mixing with clays; with what care and expence must it be carried to some clay soils, before any advantage can be reaped? but here, are layers of it through the clays, placed by nature, and
only

only require to be well tilled to be fitted for their proper use.

Their clayey soils being so naturally inclined to grafs, it is very necessary to weed the crop frequently, or it becomes so luxuriant and strong, as to deprive the flax of much of its nutriment, and will quickly overtop and smother it.

Bog stuff, mixed with clay, makes an excellent compost for potatoes, and this land, after two such crops, is made capable of yielding as good flax as can be desired, and has the weightiest return.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE in size from twenty to forty acres; two cows and two horses are proportioned to a farm of forty acres; farm houses very poor, which the tenants must repair. Leases generally twenty-one and some are thirty-one years, no particular clauses, but burning is rigorously opposed; indeed they have no soil to spare. Tenants pay all taxes and cesses. The fields are of small size, from four to six or eight acres, divided by bald ditches, or loose stone walls, few, very few thorn fences; I have seen but little improvements, or reclaimed moor; however, Thomas Lowe, Esq. near Belleir, has within these four years, reclaimed above thirty acres of bog, and intends to bring in a considerable tract.

This

This gentleman has also built a bleach mill, and established a bleach yard in the midst of the moor; he is extending his manufacture very considerably, and has planted a great deal of young timber. The moors, when well drained and gravelled, give good meadow, but burning does not answer, as the ashes are but light and white, the turf being soft and fuzzy. The bog stuff is very good manure for the uplands, when mixed with lime, but the bogs in this country lie very low, and the draught to the uplands is severe, consequently this is not much practiced.

HEMP.

The culture of this plant we are little acquainted with, and not having experience, that, which is collected from books of husbandry, which relate where its propagation is pursued, can only be recommended.

We are told the mode of culture differs very little from that of flax, but that in the nature of these plants and in the soil proper for it, there is a material difference, as from the same seed of hemp are raised two kinds, the male and the female stalk, the latter only seeds, and the former flowers.

The uplands of this country ought to be very favourable to its cultivation, as it thrives on a high, dry, sandy loam, and ever fails in a cold wet clay.

The ground must previously be very well ploughed, and brought to a fine tilth; the seed may be sowed in April,
with

with about four bushels to our Irish acre. It must be carefully and frequently weeded, but the principal care is in the pulling, as half the crop only ripens at one time, which is about the beginning of August, at which time the male plant must be pulled, and the female left to stand, to ripen, which must not be trampled; great care must be taken to keep off the birds, when the seed is sown.

The female stalk is the most valuable, as containing the seed, and pains must be taken to dry it well in the sun, stacking, turning and rousing it occasionally; if the seed gets wet, it injures it materially, which must be avoided.

The seed being saved, the stalk is steeped, dried, scutched, hackled, &c. in like manner as flax, and is a much more valuable crop. One great advantage from hemp, that no other crop can be sowed, which leaves the land so perfectly clean.

Hemp differs from flax, in as much as the distinction of its sex is in different plants, in flax they are both in the one flower.

The female plant will not ripen till several weeks after the male, it comes in about the middle of September. The value of this plant may be judged, from the very liberal premiums offered by the Linen Board for its culture, which will, doubtless, be continued the succeeding year. I therefore think it may not be improper to insert a copy of their advertisement on this subject, which will be found in a distinct chapter at the latter end of the work.

SECT.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is thickly inhabited on the eastern side, but towards the Shannon it is wild and barren, and not populous. Very few gentry reside here, and their numbers have been diminished since the rebellion. The Rev. Docter Mullock has improved a large tract at Bellair, where he resides; he has, literally speaking, planted with his own hands every tree in his demesne, which consists of forest-trees of all kinds. They had long to combat with a very bleak and exposed situation, but they are now naturalized, and in good vigour, lying very high; they give a great appearance of wood to this part of the country. Thomas Mullock, Esq. son to this gentleman, is now building a very neat village adjoining Bellair: this word is only a modern modification of Ballyard, its true name, which signifies *the high town*; it consists of about fifty houses, built with stone and mortar, and all slated roofs, which will be only inhabited by linen manufacturers, to whom this gentleman gives employment. The plan of this little village is very correct, and, in its intended police, neatness, and cleanliness must be strictly observed. The whole model is not inferior to the small manufacturing English villages. The linen manufacture is rapidly and steadily encreasing, and this village is likely to be of consequence, from the industrious exertions of its proprietor.

prietor. In this neighbourhood are mill-sites, and every advantage for any branch of manufacture; but that of the linen is most eagerly pursued; the people seem better disposed to engage in this than agriculture, which accounts for the number of small farms, as each family tills little more than supplies their provisions. If the Linen Board should be pleased to furnish wheels to this little colony, 'tis presumed it would have the happiest effect, as the poor would be better employed, and idleness is not their characteristic. Since the discontinuance of wheels, many have wanted employment; and here is a considerable quantity of flax spun, which they rear at home, and manufacture into dowlas and coarse linen. The few demesnes of the gentry are highly planted and improved, but the remainder of this country is almost in a state of nature. Mr. Holmes has a very extensive bleach-yard, and a large capital in the trade, which was very spiritedly carried on till the late rebellion, but it is intended to be again pursued. Firbane is a town in this barony, situate on the river Brosna, fifty-four miles from Dublin, near to which are the ruins of Kilcolgan and Cool Castles: it has a patent for a weekly market, but no market is held; it is on the estate of John Henry, Esq. The country immediately around it abounds with the richest landscapes and finest prospects, and near to it is the beautiful demesne of Galen, the seat of J. Armstrong, Esq.; the Brosna winds under this demesne, through the most charming and fertile banks, and, with the fine plantations here, presents a scene of picturesque and

and splendid beauty. The old castle of Garrycastle, from whence the barony is named, has very rich feeding-ground in its neighbourhood, and at Cuba, a seat of Denis Bowes Daly, Esq., the parks are rich and luxuriant. But this engaging scene is soon lost; when you pass Banagher, all is a wild, barren, and uncultivated waste; under this description, Kor Hill is very conspicuous. Banagher is a good town, and well inhabited; it is situate on the banks of the Shannon, and is the western extremity of this county, and also of the province of Leinster; as here, beyond the river, is that of Connaught. At this side of the bridge are the barracks for two companies of foot, and, at the other side, is a castle, which commands the town, with the adjacent country towards Connaught, and was well situated to defend this important pass: it is distant sixty-six miles from Dublin, and formerly sent two members to parliament; the Holmes family had a patronage of the borough. The banks of the Shannon, just adjoining, are richly clothed with meadow, but all insulated, and of a wet season, in a very precarious state. In Banagher are a distillery, brewery, malt-house, and tan-yards. The country shops are well supplied, and an inconsiderable branch of the linen manufactory is carried on here. There is also a school, with an excellent endowment; some hundred acres are annexed to it, said to be well worth 200*l.* annually, and those lands are now become a sinecure set, during the interest of the proprietor; but no school business at all attended to, as I am informed.

Cloghan

Cloghan is a village of midling appearance, four miles to the east of Banagher, and sixty-two from Dublin; it is on the estate of Denis Bowes Daly, Esq. and is remarkable for an excellent inn. At some distance are the ruins of a church, and near Moystown, the seat of Colonel Lestrange, are those of Streamstown Castle. This country abounds with ruins of castles, which were in possession of the O'Coghlan clan, almost all of which have Latin inscriptions over the entrance, which shew they were erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. All the fuel of this district is turf, which is very cheap and plenty: the country is intersected with very extensive bogs. The constant food is potatoes, and oatmeal is used generally in spring. Coarse frizes rate at about 2s. 6d. per yard, and stuffs at 8d. Price of wages, from 7d. to 10d. per day through the year. Cottier's house, garden, and cow's grass at no regular price, but generally regulated by the benevolence of their employers. Doctor Mullock's cottiers pay but 20s. for a cow's grass; the like for house and garden, and have turbary free. Beer increasing in demand, as spirits are declining, and is had tolerably good from Moat, in the county of Westmeath. Roads but in very midling repair. Soil every where light, and of limestone gravel. There have been no mines yet discovered, but they have many chalybeate springs, nor is there any marble found, or clays of calcareous quality. There are some valuable eel weirs on the river Brosna, and some near Banagher, which are the property of the inha-

bitants of this side of the river. These weirs are evidently very injurious to the bottom meadows, and throw up a considerable quantity of back water. No other fishery here of individual property, but all kinds of the finest fresh-water fish are in this part of the Shannon, in the greatest abundance. This river is here navigable, and boats of burthen pass from Killaloe to the county of Leitrim, generally laden with slates, from the quarries in that district; and sometimes they are also freighted with corn. Farmers complain of want of encouragement; their leases being generally set but for twenty-one years. All Dublin bankers' paper, and little specie, are in circulation. At Ferbane are the bolting-mills of Wm. Hone, Esq.; at Lumpcloon, now called Mill-brook, are those of Dennis Cassin, Esq.; and at Moystown are those of Edward Lefrange, Esq.; they are all well supplied with corn, and of considerable powers. No nursery for sale in the barony; trees are had from Galway and the Queen's County nurseries. No timber of any account for sale; building timber had from Limerick by the Shannon navigation. The village of Shannon Bridge is small, and noted for having the best stone bridge over the river Shannon: it has a patent for four fairs, and a weekly market; it is on the estate of Colonel Lefrange, and here is a very conspicuous pass into Connaught. On the banks of the river, and on the confines of this county and that of Westmeath, in a very wild country, stand the ruins of the seven churches, called Clonmacnoise, or Cluainmacnois, which signifies, the retreat or resting-

resting-place of the sons of the chiefs, or the cemetery of the nobles or kings. This place was famous for having entombed the ancient Christian monarchs of this country; 'tis situate on a gentle ascent, and it also was called *Druim Tiprarc*, which was expressive of its central situation, as, the church in the centre. In the year 548, 549, an abbey was founded here, by St. Keiran, or Ciaran the younger; and Dermot, the son of Ceronill, king of Ireland, granted the site, on which the church was built, and which was afterwards converted into a cathedral and bishop's see. Around this were erected seven, or, as some say, nine churches, built by chiefs or kings of the country, as their mausoleums; they were inclosed in a space of about three statute acres. 'Tis said there was also an episcopal palace here, and several smaller sepultures, which are now entirely in ruins, entombing the chiefs and bishops. Many stones are found with characters of various workmanship, and bear inscriptions of the Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Irish tongues. In the year 1552 this abbey was plundered by soldiers from the garrison of Athlone; they despoiled every thing in their way, and carried off whatever was of value, not sparing even the books that belonged to the cathedral. Here are also two of these round towers so peculiar to Ireland, and, from their near situation to churches, are considered to have been erected for religious purposes. It has been argued, that they were appropriated for penance in the early days of Christianity, which Doctor Mullock, who is a good antiquarian,

seems to think; and, in support of his opinion, he states, that there was a penance, which still exists in name, and styled the *Thurris Penance*: what the nature of this atonement was, I have not learnt, but the words come near in sound to *Turris*, which in Latin signifies *a tower*; and as in the Romish church, particularly in this country, both the Latin and Irish tongues were often in old times intermixed and confounded, it is not very improbable, this may be a sort of confirmation in the opinion of those, who believe that those towers were erected for penitentiary purposes. But in those elaborate and uncontradicted historical accounts of dates of many places of antiquity, contiguous to those towers, we have not a single authority of the use of them, or at what time they were erected; which rather argues, that their origin was in far earlier days, before the era of Christianity; and as they were built for some particular purpose, possibly a religious one, the districts around them certainly became remarkable places, and well known; for which, and perhaps, other good reasons, the founders of churches were induced to build in their vicinity; and it may have been the cause, that these towers were then appropriated by them to religious purposes: but all conjectures on this head only tend to confirm their uncertainty, and place their date before the period of the introduction of Christianity into this island. The deanery is at present the only part of the chapter which exists, as the see was united to Meath: to this deanery the prebend of Cloghran was united, and he hath a seal of office, which, perhaps,

haps, was the ancient episcopal seal of the see. A topographical account of Clonmacnoife is to be seen in the introduction, as copied from Sir James Ware's Antiquities of Ireland; the plates annexed to Ware's Antiquities give a very clear view of this venerable place. About six miles from hence, and in this barony, is the small village of Ballicumber; and near a mile beyond which, is the parish church, situate on a hill. This village is fifty-two miles from Dublin. Raghera is a very inconsiderable village, but remarkable for an excellent bridge over the Shannon. There are several ruins of old churches in this barony, and, indeed, are very numerous through the county, which has occasioned the union of several parishes, as will be shewn in the latter part of this book.

Ivernish is the habitation on the western water, an ancient city, and capital of the Scots, as mentioned by Richard of Cirencester, who asserts that it was situated on the eastern banks of the Shannon, but where, is not very certain; though probably it was the present town of Banagher, as Banagher signifies also the western habitation on the water, and is situated in the ancient Coitidugarian, the Scotii of Richard.

CHAPTER XII.

BARONY OF COOLESTOWN.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

ABOVE half of this barony is bog and waste; the remainder may be thus divided: one-fourth arable, three-fourths pasture and meadow. They till with four horses in general, and plough but lightly. Oats is the most favourite crop; next, fallow for wheat, and sometimes they fallow for bere; but they always break ground with oats, harrow lengthways, and trench in the grain with the spade; sow potatoës with dung and bog-stuff manure, of which they take two successive crops, and sow but little barley. Scarce any oxen used. The implements of husbandry are all of the common Irish kind, and not at all improved. Edenderry the principal market in the barony, but grain mostly sent to Rathangan and Clonard. No green food used in winter.

Average

Average return of Wheat-acre, six barrels,

Oats twelve,

Bere fifteen,

Barley twelve,

Potatoes fifty.

Potatoe land sets from six to eight pounds per acre ; meadow from three to seven pounds per acre ; and average price of land thirty shillings per acre.

HORSES.

Where farmers have such tracts of a fine run for horses, it is unpardonable not to occupy them more with brood mares ; the rage for land, and its increased value, seems almost utterly to extirpate brood mares from this country. The price of horses is already considerably increased of latter years.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is generally rich and luxuriant, one acre will maintain five sheep, which is termed a collop. They are in greater forwardness than black cattle : Store cattle are principally bought in at May, and sold out fat ; they are sent to Dublin market, about six hundred annually, and three

three thousand sheep. Near Portarlington, the ground is very bad and waste, above three fourths of the year under water. Horses of a good kind not so much bred as formerly, but almost every farmer has one or two brood mares, of the common draft breed. Edenderry, Rathangan, Tullamore, and Portarlington, are the neighbouring fair towns: general price of cattle regulated by Dublin market, and above one guinea in fix advance price, within these two years, in store cattle. Houfing not generally practised, springers and milch cows only are housed, they take less feeding, and are kept fine for spring fairs. Natural grass heavy and foggy, with difficulty saved in bad weather, and has much rich herbage. Artificial grasses, are English white hay seed, and red clover; the latter sowed much, and found very profitable in off and on ground; hay all tramped and let to lie till after harvest. This country is particularly adapted to dairy, and almost entirely appropriated to it; on the borders of Warrenstown barony are above twenty dairies, of from fifteen to thirty cows each; their cheese and butter sent to Dublin, as are their hides and tallow; their wool is principally sold in Mountmelick, and hitherto much was manufactured in Edenderry, but the trade of that town quite declined of late, in the woollen line, in which business only it was concerned.

DRAINING.

DRAINING.

This country abounds with a fine rich grass, and only wants draining and gravelling to be made of the very best quality. Its drains should be so managed as to check the discharge of moisture in dry hot weather, and only let to flow in winter, when it is too liable to be overflowed. It is not without falls, and the course of the water could be diverted to favour the declivity of the surface. It is equally favourable to dairy and feeding, and particularly so to the growth of timber and thorn.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE from fifty to two hundred acres, and there are several comfortable farm houses and offices: the tenants invariably repair. Leases are made for three lives or thirty-one years, but rid of particular clauses. To a farm of fifty acres may be proportioned four horses, but the most considerable part of it is under pasture; fields are of large extent, fences are very good, white thorn thrives vigorously, but is little trimmed and dressed. Draining has been successfully practised in the moors, and considerably increasing; they always
burn,

burn, and their bogs produce the heavy red ashes; with these and limestone gravel mixed, they make a very rich compost.

POULTRY.

As here, where they have the advantage of a navigation connected with the metropolis, the small farmers ought to pay attention to the rearing of poultry, which would require so little care of the females of the family.

The great price of poultry, of latter years, should be an inducement to follow this pursuit, which is too little attended to.

How many farmers in the counties of Wicklow and Wexford, pay their rent entirely with the profits on fowl? and they have not the advantage of water carriage, nor are there so many stubble fields, which the poultry can range through, and pick up so much grain, that otherwise goes to waste.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

CONSIDERING the excellence of the soil, the county is not well inhabited, but the greater part is waste, which may account for the thinness of its population. Edenderry, the only town in the barony, is a poor, fair, and

and market town ; it has no barracks, which it stands much in need of, as the soldiers are miserably accommodated with lodging. This town is on the Marquis of Downshire's estate. Town plots are let for ninety-nine years, and a tenant, who will build, gets four acres of the adjoining parks, for one life only, at a good rent ; almost the whole of the town and neighbourhood is now out of lease, and has a very miserable and shabby appearance. Many houses are falling to ruin ; if some policy is not adopted, and better encouragement given for building, the town will soon be a heap of ruins, but the market still holds up, excellent for every thing but grain. In this place were formerly two tan yards, and yet is one brewery worked. A new church, with a neat steeple, has been built lately on the Castle Hill, and commands a great extent of country, and the whole of the town : near to this are the ruins of the old castle.

Clonbullock is a village midway between Edenderry and Rathangan, where is a new church, the houses small and very mean, there were two or three good dwellings here, burnt in the late rebellion : this was the only part of this country, where it actually broke out, and it is situate on the borders of Kildare county. In this barony the cottiers habitations are poor ; the fuel is turf, which is plenty and cheap, though considerably increased in price since the Grand canal has branched here, which skirts this and Warrenstown barony, for some distance. The food of the peasantry are potatoes and a good proportion of oat-meal, and they generally make
their

their breakfast on firabout; potatoes average eight shillings per barrel, of twenty-four stone; oat-meal ten to twelve shillings per cwt.; cottiers wages has been raised from five pence in winter, and six pence in summer, to eight pence and nine pence, and this hard season to one shilling per day: they pay forty shillings for a very good cabin and acre of garden, and thirty shillings for the grafs of a cow: they have the advantage of rearing pigs and poultry, and every man, who has a cow, may keep a calf, free, on the pasture of his employer. The only distillery in the barony is at Edenderry; beer considerably increased in demand, but very bad. Several roads are in good repair, and others, with the bridges, are very bad; the idle effects of the rebellion still obvious. On the Hill of Edenderry, now the church yard, there was formerly a silver mine, twice attempted to be worked, but not within these forty years. No appearance of marle, or clays of calcareous quality. At Esker, is a chalybeate spa, which waters are esteemed wholesome; no fishery or any other navigation but the Grand canal. No schools nor charitable institutions in the barony, but at Edenderry, where the Rector of the parish is obliged to pay forty shillings annually to the master of a grammar school, which is a very mean establishment. In the late season of severity, subscriptions were raised for the relief of the poor, whose wants were carefully supplied by the gentry. Shaw Cartland, Thomas Sennight, and — Lucas, Esqrs. are the only resident gentry, and have well circumstanced and very handsome

handsome demesnes. Mr. Cartland's demesne is excellent land, and well planted with fine full grown timber, Dublin bank notes only are current, little specie in circulation, and no manufacture in this barony, but it has great advantages for one, as independent of the benefit of the Grand canal being so convenient, fuel is cheap and in plenty, water in abundance, and provisions to be had on very easy terms. In the neighbourhood of Edenderry are three wind mills; and at Johnville, about four miles from Portarlinton, is the only bolting mill in the barony; but there are several grist mills, which have neither good falls nor a command of water; the country around is very flat, and considerably damaged by the back water from these mills, which are of but inconsiderable powers, and supposed to do more mischief than they are worth, particularly so at Johnville. At Lumville, which is Mr. Cartland's seat, the country is woody and the plantations well thriven. Timber is very dear, and had with difficulty. Near Edenderry is the small remains of an ancient grove; the natives of this country are more industrious than formerly; since the navigation extended here there has been no want of employment but for children; this, to be sure, is a grievance would be desirable to have remedied, and the introduction of manufacture only will correct it. The English language is almost entirely spoken. At Monasterris is the ruin of a spacious monastery, near to which is a remarkable fine well, and from which is a great flow of the purest water. In the mine of Edenderry has been found that stratum of yellow clay,

clay, the indication of lead mines; a sample of the ore is to be seen in the society's Museum. When washed, the water was very black from it. Ballykillin Fort is in this barony; it was a famous rath, in the centre of which was a vault, where some relicks were found, not many years past; amongst them was a candlestick and a knife, in the handle of which was curiously inclosed a box of musk; when opened, the scent was in high preservation, as were several antique coins.

This fort was well defended with strong works, and was difficult of access. The Hill and Moat of Drumcooley were lately planted by Lord Downshire, but the trees are not preserved. A chain of moats extend through this country, and were strongly fortified; they all command toghers or bog passes, which were very numerous. Clonagown is rather a gay village, of triangular form, and clean appearance, situate forty miles from Dublin. Pigot Sandys, Esq. has a handsome demesne here, of the same name. Ballynure is a very mean village, in this district.

CHAPTER XIII.

BARONY OF WARRENTOWN.

SECT. 1, 2, 3. *Agriculture, Pasture and Farms:*

THIS barony is the smallest in the county, and contains but 5,800 acres, but in richness of soil it excels all the others, having scarcely an acre of bad or unprofitable ground. It comes nearly under the description of the best part of the preceding barony, only having still finer ground, almost all in the feeding line, and equal to fatten bullocks of any weight. They have no tillage but for potatoes and oats, and these are cultivated just for family consumption, and abundant crops are produced. The acre of oats yields from fourteen to sixteen barrels; potatoes fixty to seventy ditto. Potatoe land, manured, rates at eight to nine pounds per acre; grafs potatoes seven pounds; meadow six to eight pounds; and the average price of land forty shillings per acre, through the barony. The grafs is very heavy and luxuriant, very fit for dairy, of a coarse rushy pasture, yet is productive of milk and butter, and a great deal of their land

is

is thus occupied. Edenderry, their market town; farms in general of fifty to sixty acres.

MANURE.

In such a fine feeding country, where grass is so rich, no manure is required but for meadow and potatoe land. This is abundantly supplied from the farm yard, mixed with bog stuff, and makes a fine top-dressing for meadows.

Forest trees are here in the greatest vigour, but felling very rapidly; the ash is uncommonly fine, and brings the highest prices in Dublin.

VEGETABLE CROPS FOR CATTLE.

Where such fine cattle are fed, it would be advisable to cultivate a green crop for them: transplanted rape is extremely nutritious, and greedily eaten by black cattle, as well as by sheep. Potatoes mashed, at the rate of one and an half stone, and a very small quantity of hay, will fatten cattle that are put up, in tolerable condition, and feeding in stalls, or the farm yard, would furnish an abundance of manure, and could be conveyed at so cheap a rate to farms of a poor soil, which several farmers

farmers here occupy in other parts of the country. By an attention to stall-feeding, the careful grazier could always have a supply of fat cattle from this barony, for which pursuit no part of Ireland has greater capability. It also abounds in rich sheep walk, and the choicest dairy land, nor in the luxuriance of its meadows has it an inferiority.

RUSHES.

The land in this barony is very good in its kind, though the pasturage is rather coarse, yet it is abundant, and particularly favourable to milk and butter.

But the fields are greatly overrun with rushes, which could easily be destroyed by draining, and successive cutting, for two or three years. This land wants but little such attention to be brought to yield the finest herbage: at present, in its natural state, it is highly productive. Timber thrives in great vigour, and the hedge rows of white thorn shew an uncommon luxuriance.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

It would be but a tiresome repetition to recapitulate the general subjects of this barony, which in all its manners and customs, are the same as in Coolestown. Great

quantities of the finest ash are on the lands of Ballybrittain, the estate of Lord Trimblestown, where resided the late Joshua Inman, Esq. but the timber is now cutting down. Near to this is a stage, on the Tullamore branch of the Grand canal, which skirts the barony. The resident gentry are, Henry Dames, and Thomas Wakely, Esqrs, and a part of Sir Duke Giffard's estate branches here, on the borders of the county of Westmeath. In this barony are annually fattened near one thousand cows and bullocks, and several thousand sheep; a greater number of each kind are sent from hence than from Coolestown. There is no town here, and but the small village of Rhode, 'tis aptly situate for a thriving town, and on the estate of Thomas Wakely, Esq. but all the adjoining ground is let in perpetuity. Mr. Dames has some young plantations thriving vigorously, and well attended to; and at Rathmoyle, the seat of Mr. Berry, are also some young trees, fine full grown timber, and excellent hedge rows. Part of Castle Jordan parish, in the adjoining county of Westmeath, branches into this barony. The Yellow river is the only river here. I cannot learn why it is so called: its waters form but an inconsiderable stream.

The northern parts of this barony, which adjoin Westmeath, were formerly called Hy Maclonogh, or the district of the Malones; Magh Colieghan, or the district of the M'Coghlan's; Magh-oll-Leigh, or the district of the Mac Cullaghs; these lands all branched into Westmeath, and formed a part of the South Hy Falgia, which

which was composed of a union of the septs of powerful chiefs, and formerly comprehended East, and Westmeath, Dublin, part of Kildare, and this county as I have already shewn.

CHAPTER XIV.

BARONY OF GESHILL.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

EVERY acre of this barony being the estate of Lord Viscount Digby, it is almost entirely inhabited by farmers; Dean Digby, his Lordship's kinsman, being the only gentleman of fortune who resides, and his seat is glebe ground, but he farms some land adjoining the glebe. The mode of culture throughout, is with the four horse plough, except at the Dean's, who yokes four oxen after a particular manner; he uses neither collars nor hames, but a long beam of wood is laid horizontally across the necks of the bullocks, which are coupled together; it embraces their throat by an iron bow, which pierces this beam, and is keyed at top; from the centre of the beam, the long chain is suspended; this mode is the first of the kind I have seen practised in this country, and is considered easy to cattle, but I am clear that it is not at all so complete a method as Mr. Darby's, already described. Wheat and bere are the

the most considerable crops, with which the nature of the soil best agrees, being of a deep clay, which has a substratum of corn gravel, and when thrown up on the clay, improves it suprisingly, and destroys fern and all other weeds, which are naturally prolific. Wheat is produced abundantly, and of the best quality; bere and oats also make a good return, but the soil does not agree with barley, which is, consequently, not much cultivated here. The lay ground is first skinned and fallowed for wheat, and afterwards yields one or two crops of oats; after potatoes bere is next sown. The Dean lays down his tillage parks with clover, trefoil, and white hay feed, but the farmers through the barony have no more pasture than answers for their cattle; there is a good demand for hay, particularly by the army, in the neighbouring towns of Tullamore and Philipstown. They use the old Irish plough and harrow, and all common implements of husbandry, and none of the improved kind are yet amongst them. In this barony there is not a single town, and only two villages, those of Killeigh and Geshill, but no market held in either, though each has a patent for one. The farmers here have, however, the advantage of four good market towns without the barony, which environ it. These are Tullamore, Mountmelick, Philipstown, and Portarlington. They feed sheep very considerably, but pay no attention to the culture of green crops. The wheat acre produces eight barrels, but in good ground thirteen barrels have been returned.

Oats

Oats twelve ditto,
Bere fourteen ditto,
Barley eight ditto,
Potatoes sixty, of twenty-four stone.
Potatoe land sets from six to nine pounds per acre.
Meadow land from three to seven pounds.
Average price of land twenty shillings per acre.

ROADS.

The roads throughout this barony are shamefully bad, and at times almost impassable. Deprived of a resident gentry, this district is in a lamentable state of neglect; the materials for roads are certainly not very conveniently had, but there seems not the least intention of bettering them. The bogs, which are here so numerous, are necessarily intersected, but the bridges have no stone work, and are in frequent want of repair. This is extremely reprehensible and deserving the attention of the Grand Jury. These roads, leading to so many of the most capital towns of the neighbourhood, ought surely to be kept in repair, and it becomes a common cause to reclaim them from their present dangerous and really impassable state.

SECT.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

WHERE they have taken pains with their pasture, it is rich and luxuriant, and will feed cattle extremely well, but speaking generally, few more are fatted than for home consumption, but those, who turn their attention to feeding, find a good return. In their breed of black cattle, they are certainly bettered, and have some good bulls, and Mr. Wade's rams are in much estimation, and have considerably improved their sheep; as to their horses, land is too dear and valuable to appropriate it to any thing so precarious as brood mares. Gesthill is particularly distinguished for having the best pig fair in the province, or as some say, in the kingdom; it is frequented by the buyers from Cork, Waterford, and all the towns concerned in the provision trade. Smithfield market regulates their price of black cattle, which they never stall, but feed them in cribs, in the field, during the winter, with hay only. White and purple grass, and red clover, are natural, but trefoil and white clover, when introduced, agree well with the soil. The hay is heavy and foggy, and requires much care to save it, being full of herbage; they never draw in their grass cocks, but invariably make tramp cocks in the field; no more dairy ground than for family use, and in the neighbouring town is a demand for their hides, tallow,

or

or wool, which is but inconsiderable, as tillage more particularly is their pursuit.

FENCES.

The greater part of this tract being so deep a bog, no fences, but double ditches, with a good breadth at top, will be found to answer; these will at the same time furnish an excellent situation for trees, as being defended from cattle, and also will afford shade and shelter for the newly inclosed ground. As thorn does not always thrive vigorously in this soil, it would be advisable to plant a double row of quicks, which would doubtless furnish a sufficiency of shelter, and make a lasting fence. It may be proper to mention, that such plantations come within the premiums offered by the Dublin Society, which would well pay the cost of both trees and labour, had the proprietor a small nursery for his own use.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

FARMS run from fifty to three hundred acres; farm-houses have only the appearance of warmth, and, if we except Deaa Digby's, Mr. Newcome's, and Mr. Whiston's, they have nothing of neatness to recommend them. The tenant is obliged to repair; the old leases
were

were for thirty-one years, or three lives, few of which now exist; those of later date do not exceed twenty-one years, and non-alienation is insisted on under penalty of double rent, but no other particular clause. In England, perhaps, those short leases may answer, but here, it is presumed, 'tis a mistaken policy, as certainly there is no encouragement to lay down the ground well, as above half the period of the term must be spent in preparing the land in proper heart for grass, and, by the time the farmer begins to enjoy the fruit of his labour, his lease expires; but here the vitals of the soil are exhausted by constant tillage, and, at the high rents which these lands are leased, no man can make much profit, except he holds the plough himself, and has a son to drive it; for there is no want of bidders to every farm out of lease, and the highest gets the preference. Four horses may be proportioned to a farm of fifty acres. The size of fields are by no means regular, and are from five to fifteen acres, but are tolerably well inclosed with quick-set hedges. Little ground has been yet reclaimed, though they have a vast quantity of moor and bog, which it would doubtless be the interest of the proprietor to encourage. The moors lie high, and have a natural fall; the bog-water could be conveyed either to the Shannon or Barrow, whose streams course contrary ways. Much ground on the edge of the bog has been burnt, and brings a great crop of rape, which is only cultivated for seed; these ashes, bog-stuff, and corn gravel, are their manures, which produce very abundant crops.

LEASES.

LEASES.

Where such short leases only are granted, little real improvement can be expected; the tenant is discouraged from it, lest he should have his rent raised in his next tenure, to the value of his improvements, which he is fairly apprized of; the highest bidder having always a preference. When the peasantry become more civilized, perhaps this rigorous mode will be abandoned, and real solvent tenants may be granted encouragement, proportionate to their abilities and industry.

SECT 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is not so populous as the preceding baronies, but it is to be remarked, that in harvest all the peasants find employment at home, which proves the extent of their tillage. Geshill is an inconsiderable village, mostly composed of thatched cabins; it is, like other villages of this county, of triangular form. The parish church is situate here, where Dean Digby is attended by a numerous congregation. The habitations of the poor are miserable towards the bogs, which cover an immense tract of this country, consequently turf fuel is
very

very cheap and abundant ; but the dangerous custom of incautiously burning the bog, was like to have had the most fatal consequence to a great tract of this country, which melancholy scene I witnessed : on the edge of the bog some beaten was on fire, and a very strong breeze springing up, the whole face of it caught the blaze, being in a most combustible state from the excessive drought of the season : the poor peasants, whose miserable habitations were thickly scattered here, with difficulty escaped from the flames, but the whole of their effects were burnt with their huts ; and, what was still more melancholy, the potatoes and corn, which they had with much difficulty been able to rear in the late scarce year, and just seemed to promise a fine crop at the ensuing season, whose approach they anxiously looked for, were in a few minutes destroyed, and with them seemed to perish the hopes of again enjoying the blessings of plenty.

The food of the lower orders, potatoes, oat and bere meal ; their cloathing of the coarsest quality. The prices of provisions in the neighbouring markets are a standard for those who buy, but in general, the poorest have grain and potatoes to spare. The cottiers have 7*d.* per day through the winter, and 9*d.* in summer ; he pays 40*s.* for his house and garden, and 30*s.* for the grafs of a cow. Roads in bad repair, and bridges dangerously so ; many candidates rather seeking jobs, than with a view to the public benefit, and very little money granted for their repair.

The

The glebe of Gefhill, where the dean resides, comprises fifty acres, and has the only appearance of wood in this part of the barony; but at Killeigh Lord Digby has very considerable woods of oak, birch, and ash, one of which has lately been sold for 13000*l.* sterling; they are regularly copied as they are cut, and still a great quantity of fine timber remains. On the glebe of Gefhill is a spring of extraordinary quality; its waters never purge; and, when kept twenty years in bottle, it was perfectly sweet, and undistinguishable in taste and colour from the waters just drawn from the well. They have no appearance of any mine in this barony, nor have they clays of calcareous quality. No river of note, but the Grand canal line to Tullamore skirts it nearly for four miles. At Gefhill and Killeigh are two charitable schools, to each of which Lord Digby allows 15*l.* annually, for the education of poor children of all persuasions. Specie is little seen; Dublin bankers-notes only are in circulation. No manufacture of any kind here, but the country possesses all natural advantages; plenty of turf and water, provisions cheap, and the canal in the vicinity: the only discouragement seems to be the short period of their leases. There are neither bolting-mills, distillery, or brewery in this barony, nor any nursery for sale, though at Killeigh Lord Digby has ample ones to supply his woods. Price of timber there, oak 3*s.*, birch 2*s.* 6*d.*, ash 2*s.* 6*d.*, and deal 1*s.* 6*d.* per foot.

A want

A want of industry amongst the people appears, from the slovenly mode of farming practised here; their having but a small capital, and grasping at large farms, may account for their incapacity of tilling to advantage. The English language almost entirely spoken, and few can converse in Irish. Geshill has been a place of great antiquity, and here are the ruins of a lofty and spacious castle; its derivation alludes to the sons of the forest, and it was the noted residence of the O'Molloys, or the chiefs of Hy Falgia. An engagement was here fought by two sons of Milesius, king of Ireland, who jointly reigned over the kingdom for a short period; but, by the disagreement of their wives, they fought in the village, where one of them was slain. The castle was battered by Cromwell, and was remarkable for standing a long siege: the garrison was commanded by a woman; she was called the lady Ophelia. The parish church adjoining is recorded in history to have existed twelve hundred years: the village is situate forty-four miles from Dublin. At Killeigh, at the foot of a hill near the church, are the ruins of an abbey. A priory for Augustine canons was founded in the year 540, by St. Sincheal, who was the first abbot; after which was a nunnery for nuns of the same order; and, in the reign of Edward I. a house for grey friars. This village was only remarkable for its number of religious houses, which were carefully preserved by the chiefs of this country

country for several centuries. It is situate forty-six miles from the metropolis. Ballinagar is a very mean village, near which are the ruins of a church; it is forty-three miles from Dublin.

CHAPTER XV.

BARONY OF PHILIPSTOWN.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THIS barony contains about 20,200 acres, and has been divided into two districts, called the upper-half barony, and the lower-half barony of Philipstown. The mode of culture differs little throughout; the four-horse plough being almost solely used. The far greater proportion of the ground is under tillage, and every kind of grain sowed to good account: all the uplands are arable, and the moors and low-grounds are stocked with store cattle, which are here in numerous herds. They either break ground with potatoes sowed on the lay, of which they take two crops; next take two or three crops of oats, and then fallow for wheat or bere, but first spread with limestone-gravel before seed sowing; or, after paring the surface, they gravel, and fallow for wheat; next sow oats, then again-fallow, and keep up this succession, and sow their bere and potatoes in low ground, which

which they always burn. They have not had any improved implements of husbandry, except the patent winnowing machine, which I have seen with a few gentry, on a small scale. Tullamore and Kilbeggan are the market towns for grain of the upper-half barony; Portarlington and Mountmelick those of the lower: Philips-town common to both, and has but a very sorry market, and little frequented. More opulent farmers send their corn to Dublin by the canal, which intersects this barony. They cultivate no green food for their cattle in winter; rape is only sowed for seed, and they fodder in the fields in cribs.

Average Return of the upper-half Barony.

Wheat per acre,	-	Eight barrels,
Oats,	- - -	Twelve do.
Barley and bere,	-	Twelve do.
Potatoes,	- - -	Forty barrels of 24 stone.

Average Return of the lower-half Barony.

Wheat per acre,	-	Six barrels,
Oats,	- - -	Ten do.
Bere and barley,	-	Twelve do.
Potatoes,	- - -	Forty barrels of 24 stone.

Average value of an acre of rape, eighteen pounds;
cows fed from four to six cwt.

Meadow land throughout, from 4*l.* to 8*l.* per acre.

Potatoe, do. - - 6*l.* to 9*l.* do.

Average value of land, 25*s.* per acre.

COWS.

COWS.

Vegetables ought to be always sown, to procure green food, not only for sheep, but for milch cows also; their milk in the harsh spring will be considerably increased; but let the cows be, above all things, well littered, and kept clean. The greater part of the twenty-four hours, which they remain in the house, feeding on green food, will necessarily increase the quantity of dung; if bog-stuff was mixed with this dung in the farm yard, and thrown into a pit, where the drippings and water from the offices could be received, it would soon make a very rich manure. A particular saving will be found in the small quantity of hay, which only is necessary to be given with turnips, rape, or cabbages; and the great advantage will be, the turning out of the cattle by at least a month earlier than could be done on natural grass.

It may be objected, that by eating these vegetables, the cow's milk and butter becomes rank; but, by adding one-sixth of boiling water to the quantity of milk set, it will prevent that disagreeable effect.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is very rich, luxuriant, and full of herbage; in some places in the upper parts, equal to feed a bullock of any weight. In the lower half barony, store sheep only are kept, as in the neighbourhood of Croghan Hill, which is esteemed the best store ground for sheep in Ireland. Immediately adjoining Croghan, towards Philipstown, the pasture is light, and of inconsiderable extent. Roger North, Esq., of Kilduff, in this neighbourhood, and Thomas Berry, Esq., of Eglisli Castle, already spoken of, occupy almost the entire of the green farms; Mr. North has made some choice improvements here in draining, burning, and gravelling the moors, which, after producing an abundant crop of rape, give excellent pasture for store cattle, three-fourths of the year. This gentleman has also built an excellent mansion-house, which, with the infant plantations in the adjoining grounds, have greatly ornamented this part of the country; and must have had before, a miserable and bleak appearance. In this end of the barony they are not at all choice in their breed of cattle; they buy them in at two years old in the Connaught fairs, they store-feed for a year, and then sell to the Meath graziers; and they are equally inattentive to their breed of sheep and horses; sheep, when shorn, will sell from 30s. to 40s. each. Few more black cattle are fatted than for home consumption, but those and the milch cows are foddered and

and hooved all the winter throughout this barony. There are a few gentlemen in the upper parts, who have had Mr. Wade's rams from Galway, at an extravagant rate, and are careful in their breed of sheep; but, more generally speaking, they are not much engaged in bettering their flocks. Purple and white grasses are natural to the upper part, and clover, trefoil, and English hay-seeds, when introduced, agree well with the soil. In the lower end, the grass is light and brisk, easily saved into hay. White hay-feed and rye-grass have been very successfully tried, as also trefoil and clover, but here, there is no dairy ground; that pursuit is followed in the other end of the barony, where they have several dairies, which return an ample profit, the soil being particularly adapted for it: they send their butter to Dublin regularly; and the Queen's County manufacturers, or the Ballinasloe buyers take all the wool of the barony. Every where they make tramp cocks in the field, which remain there till the harvest is got up, and their process of hay-making is expert, the grass not being heavy. No cattle are slaughtered in the barony but for home use, and in the neighbouring towns is a demand for their hides and tallow; they now average 6*d.* per lb.

WATER MEADOWS.

Irrigation, or the superficial watering of land, is now become a valuable discovery in husbandry: its effects in forcing grass, and being at the same time a rich ma-

nure, is wonderful. Land that is commanded by water, so that it passes quickly over it, lies best for this mode: as it has been so highly beneficial to meadows, would it not be wise, where the ground favours it, to plant a portion of that part of the farm with potatoes? By this means the crop would not fail in a dry season, and the potatoes would come in at least a month earlier than usual. Flax ground would also be bettered by irrigation.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE in size from ten to two hundred acres; rather numerous, and small in the lower end, consequently well tilled and productive: farm-houses are indifferent in appearance, but the occupiers esteem them comfortable; towards the bogs they are very wretched hovels. The tenant invariably repairs his holdings, except the cottiers houses, which the landlord keeps in order for his own sake. The great farms are perpetuities of very old date, but the lesser are set generally for three lives, or thirty-one years, mostly the latter tenure, but they have no particular clauses. Tenants pay all taxes and cesses. Four horses may be the proportion to a farm of forty acres, but in small farms they have seldom more than two, and lend or hire occasionally to each other. Their fields are in size from four to ten acres generally, and
are

are enclosed with white-thorn hedges, well kept: they are not extensively engaged in draining; it is yet in its infancy. Limestone-gravel, bog-stuff, and burnt peat make a compost for every purpose in the lower half barony; but in the upper, the turf ashes being white, and the sod fuzzy, militate against burning. Bog-stuff and corn gravel only their manures, and here are but few plantations; they consider the ground too valuable to give up to planting, but sure these extensive wastes might be easily thus appropriated, which at present yield no profit.

WEEDING.

Here potatoes are pretty constantly weeded, but the corn crops are neglected. Meadow land is greatly overrun with the foulest thrash, and the farmer seems quite torpid to this useful branch of husbandry. I have seen valuable artificial grasses, that had not been sown without great expence, totally smothered from this neglect.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is very thickly inhabited; Philipstown, which is the county town, and the only one in the barony,

rony, has hitherto sent two members to parliament; it has till lately been in a wretched state, and was rapidly fallen to ruin: now there is but little to recommend it. This town was originally part of the Molefworth estate, and, through family connections, is now divided into three properties; the most considerable part of it is enjoyed by the Right Hon. Mr. Ponsonby. The new leases now given are encouraging, and several new houses are erecting. The Grand canal passes at the northern end of the town, and, before this navigation, was complete to Tullamore, it was of very material service to this town, but now of inconsiderable advantage. A new county gaol is also erecting at the rear of the barracks, which are extensive, and command the town: it is almost entirely surrounded with bog, consequently fuel must be cheap and abundant; and provisions are in plenty, yet no manufacture of any kind is carried on. It had formerly a garrison, and the ruins of a lofty castle are situate on the brink of the river. This town is thirty-eight miles distant from Dublin.

The labouring peasants often go from hence to look for work abroad, rather than take reasonable wages; this combination is steadily persisted in, though they are paid 9d. and 10d. per day through the year. Cottiers wages, 7d. per day in winter, and 8d. in summer; they have an acre of garden and house for 40s. annually, and pay 30s. for a cow's grass; the keeping of a calf not charged till a year old, and every privilege of pigs and poultry allowed

allowed them: turbary is free, consequently they have no want of fuel. Food, mostly potatoes and oatmeal; and, where there is more than one labourer in family, they often afford bacon, and live well: few cottiers but have a cow. Average price of potatoes, 3d. per stone; oatmeal 11s. per cwt. Beer in great demand. The country being very boggy, occasions many bridges, which are very dangerous, seldom better than hurdles thrown across the stream, felled and gravelled over. They are systematically penurious in repairing these roads, which are in very indifferent order, and must in the winter season be in a very wretched state. There are no mines found here, nor is there any river of note, or navigation but the Grand canal. The soil in the uplands is light, but warm, and well repays the careful farmer. In the moors adjoining Kilduff, is a spa of chalybeate quality, and has a strong mineral taste; its medical use is not known, and it has the same properties as the other chalybeate springs already spoken of. Education is in a low state, nothing better than the poor-schools for peasants children. There is no nursery for sale in this barony, nor manufacture; timber is had from Dublin by the canal, none being here for sale of any kind, but what is had from Killeigh woods. The women being rather industriously inclined, and well trained to spinning worsted, which they are obliged to send to market without the barony, argues much for the success of a woollen factory, if attempted here,

here, for which there is every natural advantage; and, from the many grist-mills which appear, a good site could not be wanted. 'Tis surprising, on this account, there are no bolting-mills in a country so prolific in corn, very little inferior to the best corn county in Ireland. There is here a considerable quantity of moor, which could be reclaimed at a small expence: they have excellent falls, and limestone is very abundant and convenient. English language generally spoken, and the Irish tongue evidently decreasing. This barony branches into the county of Kildare at * Harristown, near the Moat of Ardskull, and it is intersected by the Grand canal near Monasterevan. There are scarce any vestiges of castles, nor any places of historical account, so conspicuous in the more southern parts of this country. Part of the fine demesne of Colonel Warburton extends into this barony; and here is also the beautiful seat of Captain Weldon Tarleton. Mr. Newcome, of Aghanville, also resides here, and holds above 3000 acres in his own occupation. Thomas Magan, Esq. resides at his beautiful seat at Clonerle, which he rents from Mr. Doolan Medlicott; but this gentleman has a very considerable estate in the county of Westmeath. This demesne contains about 200 acres, which are elegantly enclosed and planted; the farm cultivated after the best improved methods, and here are the greatest variety of well chosen implements of husbandry. This beautiful seat altogether
highly

* See page 4 in the Introduction.

highly delights the eye, and richly ornaments the surrounding country; it is situate two miles from Philipstown. The dead flat and level of this barony is agreeably relieved by Croghan Hill, which stands in majestic pre-eminence, and in this country forms a remarkable feature, beautifully clothed with verdure to its summit, from whence it commands a most extensive prospect; a large tract of it was formerly enclosed as demesne land for Lord Tullamore's ancestry, whose estate it is; and at the foot of the hill are the ruins of Croghan church, which was a chapel of ease for that family. Its pasture is of a purgative quality, and the small breed of sheep, when sent thither, grow to a large size, and throw out considerable fleeces. Mr. Young, in his agricultural tour through this kingdom, speaks of Croghan Hill as producing twelve pounds to the fleece; but I am well informed they frequently stone here with a fleece and a half, which makes the produce about ten pounds to a fleece, perhaps the average may be nine; but the quality of the wool is strong and coarse: the bone also encreases to a considerable size and strength, but the sheep will not fatten. The nature of this soil is warm, and of a limestone gravel, but in many places the depth of it was never ascertained, and produces a constant vegetation in all seasons. It contains several thousand acres, and has been, with the adjoining estate, surveyed, and all the lands under the denomination of Croghan Hill make nineteen and three quarters Irish miles in circumference, but a great proportion of this is boggy moor;

it

it would average 25s. per acre. This hill has been celebrated by Spenser in his *Fairy Queen*; on its summit is an ancient burial-place, and its boundaries divide this county and that of Westmeath.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVI.

BARONY OF KILCOURSEY.

SECT. 1. *Agriculture.*

IN their culture, a four horse plough has been hitherto used, but some gentry now have introduced oxen, which are harnessed from the shoulder. This barony has hitherto been occupied principally in pasture, from the high price of sheep, wool, and the excellence of its soil, as it was calculated for grazing; but the increasing price of corn has occasioned much tillage, which it is now considered is yet gaining ground. They break the lay almost universally with potatoes, of which they take two crops, and this ensures the excellence of the species of corn which is next sown; here oftener succeeds potatoes than flax, but of this, they have always a crop in their course of tillage, and the last two crops are oats, with which they let out the ground. Clover, and white English grass seeds are lately introduced, and from the reasonable prices of seeds sold at Tullamore Horse Barracks, to the neighbouring farmers, and

and the very nice choice in the quality of the hay, which the Commissaries purchase, it is presumed it has been of the greatest advantage to the pasturage of this country. The English garden spade has lately been used, and found to be the best implement, where the ground is deep, as is generally the case. In more shallow soil, the short scie is yet used, and all their other implements are of the common Irish kind. Cattle are all harnessed with collars and hames. Clara, which is the only town in the barony, has an excellent market for grain, held on Wednesdays; formerly there were no less than eleven distilleries worked in this town, and not one now, though it possesses every advantage of water, fuel, and abundance of corn in the neighbourhood. This can only be accounted for by the small stills being cut off by the legislature, and it is really surprising why some capital distillery is not now carried on here. It is a grievance felt by the adjoining farmers, as they have not such a demand for their grain, and the distillery yards furnish them with a quantity of rich manure.

Average return of wheat acre eight barrels.

Oats, thirteen ditto,

Bere and barley, fourteen ditto,

Potatoes, forty barrels of 40 stone.

Potatoe ground rates from seven to ten guineas per acre.

Meadow land from five to eight ditto.

Average price of land through the barony thirty-five shillings per acre.

FLAX

FLAX SEED.

Here, where a partiality for the linen manufacture prevails, the sowing of flax seed ought to be sufficiently encouraged, and the value of this crop shewn to farmers. I shall now give a statement of the average value of an acre of flax in the north of Ireland, where they grow all their own flax, and as the gentry here are so very industrious, and are not strangers to the cultivation of the seed, it is to be hoped they will consider its importance and encourage the practice; as the greater the quantity of the material raised, the cheaper it comes to market, and the stronger temptation is held out to induce the peasants to become manufacturers. This country being particularly well adapted to the extension of the linen business.

*Expences attending the raising of an acre of flax in
in the north of Ireland.*

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Value of the land, say 5 <i>l.</i> per acre ready tilled	5	0	0
To four bushels of seed, Dutch is best by one third in value	-	3	0
Expences of sowing, weeding, &c.	-	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£. 8: 10: 0		
	<hr/>		
<i>Cr.</i>			

Cr.

An acre of flax will sell, standing, at the					
lowest, for	-	-	-	-	16 : 0 : 0
Deduct Dr. side	-	-	-	-	8 : 10 : 0

Remains Profit £. 7 : 10 : 0

But very generally, sixteen guineas per acre is claimed, where the crop is good, and sold standing in the ground; the above calculation is at the very lowest, and shews the certainty of clearing so much in the worst of times.

Twenty-five to twenty-eight stones of clean scutched, unhackled flax, have been saved off an acre of good land, this exceeds any calculation we could have expected.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is very luxuriant, it particularly yields well to black cattle, which are sold in Dublin after Michaelmas, and are as weighty as any sent to that market: their place is supplied with sheep bought at the Connaught fairs, in choice of which, as to size and bone, the feeders are particular; they are likewise sold in Smithfield market, and pay extremely well, and this is the constant succession. Very few black cattle, or sheep, are bred in the barony,

barony, but horses have been hitherto much attended to, and with great success; perhaps it is the great rise on land that may have occasioned the present failure of this pursuit. It is not likely the breeding of cattle will be followed here, as the trade is mostly at fairs. Milch cows only are housed in winter, black cattle have hitherto been foddered in the fields, but latterly they are more generally fed in yards for their manure. White grass, white clover, and trefoil, are natural to this soil. The hay is rich and full of herbage, not easily saved but in fine weather; they do not draw in their grass cocks, but save the hay green, after the English mode, to preserve the sap; there are several dairies in this district, and some extensive ones, remarkable for good cheese, which are sold at home for fifty shilling per cwt. In Moat, Clara, and Tullamore towns, there is a demand for hides, tallow, and butter. No cattle slaughtered but for home consumption, and Roscommon and Kilkenny buyers attend regularly for their wool. One acre of their pasture will feed a cow to six cwt. and afterwards two sheep will get thorough fat on it. No turnips, rape, or any vegetable crops are cultivated for winter's food. The bogs are very deep, and when above twenty spades depth are cut out, will produce excellent potatoes in a dry year, and will afterwards bring good pasturage and meadow; when drained and gravelled the bog is quite reclaimed, and produces corn, but vegetable crops would yield better. Burning does not answer for it, as the ashes are too light.

be advantageous. The peasant has too small a capital to be engaged in both pursuits, give him a good garden only, and he will get wealthy by his trade; a sensible weaver will not look for more. In the northern counties, where this method has been adopted, the wealth and independence, that spring from it, prove the policy of the measure. In a county so abundantly supplied with every thing favourable to a great population, manufactures ought to be encouraged, the foundation is now laid for it, and nothing is wanted but a perseverance to insure its success. But when the peasant without capital is a manufacturer and a farmer together, he certainly has not ability to follow the two trades, and he fails in both.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS barony is extremely populous, perhaps increased from the extension of the linen manufacture, which has hitherto been carried on here with great spirit and success, till the unhappy rebellion drove many manufacturers from their homes, who soon intend to resume the trade, and several of whom are again actually employed. A very great grievance now exists, the want of a hall or proper place for the manufacturers to bring their linen for sale;

as a peddling trade is practised in alehouses, and so much chicanery and unfair dealing prevails amongst dishonest competitors, who combine and regulate prices to their own advantage, that it calls loudly for correction, and threatens to be of the most material prejudice to this branch, to which it ought to be our policy to give every encouragement. It is very evident, that the local prosperity of the manufacture is retarded from this improper practice, for can it be expected that men of character and respectability, many of whom are here engaged in the linen trade, will frequent such mean houses, or allow themselves to be reduced to the level of these forty unfair dealers? but a matter of the first importance to be redressed, is the imposition on the poor weaver, who ought to meet every possible encouragement. Were a hall erected here or at Tullamore, which is but five miles distant, and a very thriving town, and were a proper officer appointed to regulate the sale of goods, the same good effects, which have resulted in other parts of the nation, where these advantages have been granted, would quickly operate here also, and materially contribute to the extension and prosperity of this manufacture; besides, the linen merchants here are active in the business, emulous, and wealthy, and would give liberal subscriptions, were they but protected and patronized by proper authority. The women and children are all spinners, and disposed to industry. When looms and wheels were granted by the Linen Board,

they had full employment. After the severities of the late distressing season, it is presumed the like extension to this neighbourhood would be very gratefully felt, and have the happiest consequence towards forwarding in this country the manufacture of the great and staple commodity of the nation.

Turf fuel is plenty and cheap, and of the best quality. Food, principally potatoes and oatmeal; and here is the only part of the country, where the family of almost every cottier annually consumes a bacon pig. In grounds that have not been drained, which are grazed, the cattle are very subject to the black-leg disorder; it has hitherto been incurable: yearlings and two-year old cattle of the best kind are most subject to it. Clothing excellent; frizes and stuffs both of their own manufacture; and there are here tuck-mills, and woollen weavers, so that they have not to procure the clothing without the barony: cotton goods are lately much in demand amongst the women. Cottiers' wages, 6d. in winter, and 8d. in summer; he pays one guinea and a half for his house and acre of garden; the like for his cow's grass, and has also the usual privileges. General cost of potatoes, 3d. per stone; oatmeal 10s. per cwt. Beer is in better demand, and an emulation for the best quality; it is had from Tullamore and Moat. Roads and bridges in good repair. The soil is very deep, and of limestone quality; the best ground is thickly strewed with limestone rocks, but as yet they have not discovered any
mines,

mines, or other minerals. The river Brosna is navigable in many parts, and at a small expence could be completed throughout; but there are no fisheries of individual property, but free to every sportsman. Here is a charitable school, well attended to, under the patronage of Miss North, and subscriptions liberally paid; it is intended to be enlarged, on a more extensive plan. Dublin bank-notes only are current, and little specie in circulation, but gradually increasing: the premium for gold is declining, which is only sent to Connaught to purchase yarn. Linen manufacture the favourite pursuit, and quite confined to the making of dowlas: the country is peculiarly situate for the extension of the trade; every peasant is more or less concerned in it, and follows it with much greater avidity than tillage. Fuel and provisions cheap; water in abundance: the adjoining county yields every necessary, and much flax, is sowed throughout the barony. At Clara is an extensive flour-mill, lately built by Mr. Moore, the proprietor, and has in this year of scarcity been of the utmost service in this country, which consumed all its manufacture. There is also another flour-mill on the same river, the property of Mr. Maguire, and several grist or country mills. Plantations are of small account, little more than screens for gentlemen's demesnes; but Mr. Fuller, of Woodfield, has now prepared a nursery for intended plantations on his own estate.

The

The Dublin Society's premiums have not yet been sought for in this barony; but no nursery for sale nearer than those in the Queen's county, above twenty miles distant. Timber is reasonably had, on account of the vicinity of Lord Digby's woods. A pair of car sides, of ash, are sold for eighteen pence, and a car-load of timber for seven or eight shillings, and every kind for country use proportionably cheap. So much as one-third of this barony is bog, but from the increasing population, and the easy expence of reclaiming, we may expect soon to see much new ground. I have already spoken of the great industry of the women, indeed, their auxiliary exertions are particularly depended on for the subsistence of the family, and so proverbial, that it is common for an industrious young man, to seek a wife in this country. The English and Irish tongues are spoken here, but the latter declining as manufacture gains ground. There are several extensive manufacturers in this country, who keep looms at work, but they also buy all the grey webs that are offered for sale, which they bleach, and their greens are well covered. So devoted to this manufacture, are the very labouring peasants, that every one of them has annually one or two pieces of linen to dispose of. There are also several manufacturers, who keep looms employed, but do not bleach. Mr. Holmes of Prospect, and Mr. Armstrong of Belview, are the most extensive manufacturers, and both have large greens, but they only bleach their own linen, their being several bleach yards for public accommodation.

tion. In this barony are also some old castles in ruins, but of no remarkable tradition. Near to Clara is the village of Charles-town, adjoining which is the old castle of Kilcourney, from whence this barony is named, and the Lambert family takes the title of Baron.

CHAPTER XVII.

BARONY OF BALLICOWEN.

SECT. I. *Agriculture.*

THEY till generally with four horses, yoked with collars and hames, except Lord Charleville, but his tillage is of small extent, and his oxen are yoked after the manner described at Dean Digby's, in Gethill Barony: but it is to be observed the method was introduced into this county by his Lordship. It is the usual method of yoking cattle in the northern parts of England, but it is not free from excoriation, and galling, which, when it happens, may be easily redressed by an early attention. I have not yet seen any method of yoke so simple and unexceptionable as Mr. Darby's, of Leap Castle. The greater part of the barony, exclusive of the moors, is arable, but in many places are seen small limestone hills in clusters, which yield a very kind pasture for sheep and store cattle. The moors have but a light soil, and not above fourteen or sixteen inches in depth from the

Lac

Lac Leigh, which is a kind of bluish clay, of a very staunch quality, and is found at various depths at the bottom of all the bogs in the kingdom, and by looking into its nature, being impenetrable to water either up or down, it is easily reconciled to be the great cause of so much bog. Where the stratum is very deep, draining will have no effect, and it is only to be penetrated by the augur, which seems peculiarly fitted to the reclaiming of our moors. By their yielding nature, we can account for the shaking bogs, which become more or less tremulous, as the *Lac Leigh* is nearer to, or farther from the surface; and under it, is always a sheet of water of various depths, on which floats this clay, that supports the bog. I understand the meaning of the word signifies *good for nothing*, as this clay cannot be turned to any account, but is highly detrimental if mixed with any manure. If the moors in this country are burnt, they certainly give a great return in the crop, but then they are so shallow, it considerably reduces their surface. Gravelling, which gives surface and consistency, is more advisable, and yields abundantly, and here lies the difference between moor and bog, as in the latter, where the soil is deep, it best answers when burnt, particularly black bog, which produces red ashes, and if afterwards gravelled will give either arable or pasture ground, and the soil becomes particularly favourable to the growth of trees. Wheat and Oats are the principal crops, and make the best return; potatoes are generally sown in the moors, which

which, when they have dung, they sow in the uplands; they make but a poor fallow for their wheat, which succeeds their crop of oats, but they always break ground with potatoes. The implements of husbandry are only those of the oldest fashion. Tullamore is the market for grain, and indeed the produce of many adjoining baronies is sent thither, there being the fairest sale and a good demand amongst the buyers, occasioned principally on account of the many stores, which were established by the Grand Canal extending here, and which divides this barony for some distance. This proves the value of inland navigation, and gives the farmer in these distant parts the advantage (as we may say), of bringing Dublin market home to his door. Lord Charleville only tills green crops for winter food for his sheep. Wheat acre averages four barrels, oats eight, potatoes forty barrels of twenty stone; potatoe land sets for £.5, or guineas per acre, hay 6 guineas per ton, and the average price of land is but 14s. per acre through the barony.

POTATOES.

Where so much experience has been had these latter two years, not only from the economy, that was necessarily practised during the scarcity, but also from the meritorious and successful exertions of the Dublin Society

ciety, little remains to be said, it now being clearly ascertained, that hitherto we lost one half at least of that valuable root in the cutting of our seed; what an excellent discovery was it, and how acceptable to every rank in life, that such a portion can be preserved for food, which before was considered as good for nothing, and even for hogs or poultry was not thought worth saving; every particle of this valuable root thus turns to profit, even its very stalks, when pulled green, as you dig out the new potatoes, if strewed on after grass, will discharge such a nutritious moisture, as produce a surprising manure to the meadow, which holds good for one year at least.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is divided into two kinds, the limestone hills and the moory bottoms, the hilly pastures are best for sheep, and though store cattle occupy the low grounds, the breed of sheep is badly attended to, and excepting Lord Charleville's stock, which is improving, they have little idea of bettering them; they breed from the common Irish kind and sell out at one or two years old; their black cattle are bought in calves, and sold out at three years old; there are none fed for fattening but by the gentry for their own use; they breed no horses, which is not easily accounted for, as the land

is not so valuable but that it might be profitably occupied by brood mares. General prices of sheep, when shorn, two years old, from 20s. to 27s.; store cattle three years old, average from £.5 to £.7, and bought up by the Meath and West Meath feeders; and they generally house in the winter, as the low grounds are so subject to water, and they fodder with coarse bottom hay and straw. Natural grass of the uplands is the fescue or feather kind, and short bent grass in the moors, and the latter kind is coarse, and they take little pains in saving it into hay; the uplands are light and brisk, and easily saved; they always make tramp cocks in the field; they have no more dairy cows than answers the supply of their own families, and in Tullamore is a demand for hides, tallow, and butter, but this trade is here yet inconsiderable: wool is pretty much manufactured in the country, and those, who are extensive in sheep walks, sell at Ballinasloe.

LIMING.

The effects of lime on the bogs in this barony are truly surprising, this manure is very easily had, the soil being of a limestone quality, and the fuel so cheap for burning it. There are several proprietors here, who have a taste for this very great agricultural improvement: by a perseverance in applying their attention practically

tically to this pursuit, the face of this country would soon be changed, and the bogs assume a verdure, of which they are highly capable, whilst a great part of the irreclaimable and barren upland could be profitably employed, if carried down to the moors, and judiciously incorporated by the culture of potatoes, rape, or even oats.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

In many places, are of small extent, and but sufficient to give provision for the family; the farmers generally speaking, have too trifling capitals to make profit of their grounds. In Rahen they are parcelled out on a larger scale, and occupied by tolerably wealthy farmers. The farm houses are very mean, and towards the moors are wretchedly poor, covered only with fods and rushes, but these miserable smoaky huts are preferred to better habitations. The tenant repairs his cottage. The tenures are generally for three lives except glebe lands, and that part of this barony, that is the estate of the Marquis of Lansdown, where farms are set but for twenty one years. In his lordship's leases, the tenant must restore the straw to the soil, and cannot alienate under forfeiture of lease, but here they do not pay for their improvements on the expiration of the lease; the rise of the
times

times only is added to the farmer's rent, and the old tenant gets his land again. Every where, taxes and cesses are paid by the occupier of the ground; it is difficult to ascertain the proportion of cattle here to the size of farms, as some have so little land as is not sufficient to employ one horse, much less a plough of cattle, and others have more land than they have horses to till; they generally lend and hire cattle occasionally, and hurry over their tillage in a slovenly idle manner. Their arable fields are from four to ten acres, and their walks for sheep and store cattle are of larger extent. In some places and for a considerable distance, there is scarce a tree to be seen or thorn hedge; the soil is so poor and shallow, that it is unfavourable to the growth of timber and thorn, and their fences are mostly ill constructed, loose stone ditches: very little improvements and draining, this husbandry is yet in its infancy; Lord Charleville only has attempted it, he has not yet gravelled, but burnt the surface, and here is very obvious the inclination of the soil to return to its original coarse quality for the want of gravel, which would destroy all the aquatic plants, and give a proper consistency to the surface. Bog stuff, called moreen, mixed with clay and lime is a very good compost for the uplands, and all the dung they scrape together is appropriated to potatoes.

MALT DUST.

There has not yet been discovered a more powerful manure as a top-dressing for meadows than the sweeping and dust from malt; for two years, it will occasion a greater vegetation and more luxuriant grass than any covering of the richest stable dung. In the neighbourhood of great towns, where malting is much practised, it is well worth the attention of the careful farmer, and requires to be spread but very thinly on the surface; the spring is the best season for scattering it on, when the meadows are shut up.

SECT. 4 *General Subjects.*

Farms being so numerous, of course, the country is very populous of the lower order; but few resident gentry; of these are Lord Viscount Charleville, who resides at Charleville demesne, Mr. Stepney of Durrow, and the Rev. Mr. Turpin whose seat adjoins Charleville; this gentleman has made improvements and adorned his demesne with well inclosed plantations. Cottier's wages 8d. per day through the year, and provisions are cheap in general. Ballicowen village is the estate of the Earl

Earl of Mountrath, and here are the ruins of a castle, which gives name to the barony. Turf fuel is in great plenty, and had on the cheapest terms. Tullamore is a very neat town situate on the river Clo-dagh, and owes its newly acquired consequence to the present Lord Charleville, from whence his Lordship takes the title of Baron, this town and about 2000 acres adjoining being his estate: about fourteen years ago it was but a very mean village, with scarce any better than thatched cabins, which were almost all destroyed by accidental fire, occasioned by the launching a balloon, and has since risen, Phenix like, from its ashes, to its present pre-eminence: it is certainly the best town in the county, and bids fair to be little inferior to any town in Ireland; the houses are all slated, built mostly two stories in height, and ornamented with window stools and top courses of a fine hewn stone. The linen manufacture has been introduced here, and is likely to be pursued with spirit; as I have already stated when speaking of this manufacture in Kilcoursey barony, this, seems to be the proper place, and most central situation for a Hall under the superintendence of a seal-master; it would doubtless be of the first consequence to the trade, and the manufacturers would certainly consider it highly to their benefit to have the market established here, from the assured patronage every publick work receives under the care of Lord Charleville. A brewery and distillery are worked in this town, and two more breweries are erecting

crofting; here is also a bolting mill of inconsiderable powers on account of the lackage of water. This indeed is the only obstacle to its becoming a great manufacturing town; over the river Clodagh is a neat bridge, and the stream nearly divides the town into two equal parts. The barracks are spacious and very handsome, the market is well supplied with provisions, and a neat market house has been built at his Lordship's expence. The fairest regulations are here adopted for buyer and seller, which wise policy promises a steady resort and a sure supply of commodity to this market. Lord Charleville gives the utmost encouragement for building, he has hitherto invariably let leases for ever of the townplots at 1s. per foot in front, and the tenant gets three lives of a reasonable proportion of the adjoining parks from 16s. to 20s. per acre; so rapidly has this town increased in wealth and consequence within these few years, that these parks now set for 6 guineas per acre, and are sought for with avidity at a still more enormous rent. It is certainly a great pity this is not the assizes town, as independent of its elegance and excellent accomodations, it is considerably more central, and aptly situated than Philipstown, but the new gaol which is nearly finished there, seems now to have determined the point, which for some time past it was in the contemplation of parliament to have established at Tullamore. The woollen manufacture is also getting forward here, and from the great encouragement and peculiar attention

of his Lordship to every branch of manufacture, we may expect to see little left undone to establish its consequence. The navigation extending to this town must be of the most material advantage to its manufactures; roads and bridges in but indifferent order in this barony, particularly so, between Tullamore and Birr, in which wild waste every thing seems to militate against improvement. The streams, that water the barony, flow into the Brosna river. I do not learn that there is yet established a school of consequence in Tullamore, but here is the County Infirmary, which is humanely attended to by Lady Charleville, and a machine for restoring life to persons apparently drowned, is now erecting at her Ladyship's expence. So many fatal accidents, that have occurred on the lines of canals for want of medical assistance, call for the universal adoption of this humane institution. Little specie is seen, and principally purchased by the yarn buyers, who frequent Connaught markets. The plantations in this barony are confined to the demesne grounds of Lord Charleville, and those of Mr. Stepney of Durrow. There is no nursery for sale, building timber is got from Dublin by canal, and at Lord Digby's woods at Killeigh, about four miles distant, is had that for country work. The quantity of waste ground from the extreme shallowness of soil, and extent of bog, is very considerable, and occupies above half of the barony; the immediate appearance of the rock on the surface of the

the uplands, and the moors being full six months under water every year, present great and almost unconquerable natural obstacles to their improvement. Indeed, sinking the bed of the river, is the only experiment could be tried to remedy the flooding of the bottoms, and might probably have some good effect, but the extent of the line; and great expence, must render it rather a hazardous undertaking. The want of industry as well as of capital, is the bane of this country, and the true cause of the desolate, and uncultivated appearance of many places, which have not the same great natural disadvantages of other parts of the barony, and only want fair play and industrious application, to repay a careful improver. The fine demesne of Charleville extends to the suburbs of the town of Tullamore, and for an elegant display of taste, and many great and natural beauties, is a feat of the first importance, in this kingdom; it contains nearly 1500 statute acres, most delightfully wooded with fine full grown timber, and a considerable part is planted with young trees, for which Lord Charleville has received the Dublin Society's premium; these plantations are carefully fenced from cattle, and in the utmost possible heart and vigour. A large tract of bog, which has been lately drained, is now preparing for another extensive plantation without-side the demesne to the bounds of the estate; and the trees are to be had from the nurseries within. The undulating hills so peculiar to this country have the

most pleasing effect, and when planted are truly picturesque and engaging. The materials for a superb mansion are now preparing, and a farm-yard is building at a proper distance, with all suitable offices which are slated; the great range for black cattle is under one roof, and divided into apartments, with two rows of bales at opposite ends, that each distinct kind whether stall fed, store, plough, or milch cattle, may have each their separate division, and a stream of water can be turned through the whole at pleasure, and commands every part of the farm-yard; this, when completed, will certainly be of the most capital construction and entirely commodious. The Clodagh river runs with rapidity through the demesne, which is well supplied by several mountain streams, and rolls over huge rocks through a deep glen; its banks are laid out in elegant walks, which are thickly planted with deciduous trees, and evergreens, forming a pleasing contrast, and intersected with several rustic bridges, which with the cascades have altogether the most charming effect. The grotto, which commands a principal fall, is finished in true rustic style; the tumbling rocks, the hermit's bed, and the well are most happily situated, and the incrustations and petrifications, which are now throwing out, give it all the venerable appearance of antiquity, and shew the purest taste: when lights are introduced, they give the grandest illumination to the reflecting spar, and transparent petrifications. This grotto was designed by the late Lady Charleville, and built at considerable
expence

expenſe, to give employment to the poor peaſantry, in a ſeaſon of ſcarcity. A lake of near eighty plantation acres, has been cut out by the preſent Lord, and is interſperſed with iſlands thickly planted, which afford fine cover to ſwans, and wild fowl of all kinds, that reſort the lake, and breed here. This lake was originally a moor, and was cut down to the *Lac Leigh*, which compoſes its bottom ; it has conſequently a clear ſurface without any weeds, as this clay is always hoſtile to vegetation. A leſſer lake adorns the oppoſite end of the demeſne, and through all the plantations, are elegant drives cut in ſerpentine forms. The ſublime appearance of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, the adjoining caſtles in ruins, and the internal artificial beauties catch the eye through beſt diſpoſed viſtas, and complete this delightful landſcape. A filiceous ſand is carried from the mountains down the ſtream, and thrown up on its banks in great quantities ; it is only diſtinguiſhable from ſea-ſand by its impurities, and has been analyzed by Lord Charleville ; as his lordſhip's opinions* are preparing for preſs, I refer the reader to the publication, in which alſo the nature of the clays and their calcareous ſubſtance in this county will be deſcribed, as from actual chemical experiment made by his lordſhip, he is able to give a true and correct report. Several chalybeate ſpas of ſulphureous quality are alſo found in this neighbourhood. The ruins of Stra Caſtle are near to

Charleville,

* In this analyſis are alſo ſome curious experiments on Bog.

Charleville, on the eastern side, and on the western is Ballicowen castle, from whence the barony takes its name. This castle has yet the vestiges of great magnificence; over the entrance is the following inscription, "This house was built by Sir Jasper Harbert, Mary Dean Finglas his wife, in the year 1626; under this inscription is the family arms with this motto,

*By God of might,
I'll bold my right.*

Durrow is a small village, about two miles from Clara, adjoining which, is the fine mansion and demesne of Mr. Stepney. Raghan is a very inconsiderable village in this barony.

This country was originally the property of the O'Dempsey's, a famous Irish clan, and no other matter on record relative to its history but what is given in the introduction.

The most remarkable piece of antiquity in this province is that ruin, called the white obelisk, or Temple of the Sun, erected long before the introduction of christianity into this island; it is a large pyramid formed of white stones, situate in the Slieve Bloom mountains, and resembles those, which have been seen in all the Celtic nations.

Bladhma is said to be corrupted from Beal-dimai, whence Sliabh-beal-de-mai is the mountain of the

the worship, or necromancy of Beal's day. These mountains form the most remarkable feature in the view of this country, being conspicuously seen from every part of it, and have been celebrated by Spencer in his *Fairy Queen*, from whose summits he probably was furnished with the scenery of his poem.

CHAPTER XVIII.

RURAL ECONOMY.

SECT. 1. *Labour.*

THE time of labour through this country is from six to six in summer, but they generally work an hour later, and in winter during day light. The rate of wages through the year for cottiers including privileges may be truly said to be equal to 1s. per day.

Daily labourers, who are every termed where spalpeens (I know not the derivation of the word, if it does not imply contempt,) are paid 10d. on an average per day. Women only work in harvest, their hire will average 6½d. per day.

SECT. 2. *Provisions.*

PROVISIONS are generally moderate, beef, mutton, and veal rate at from 1d. to 2d. per lb. under Dublin market, geese 1s. 8d. per couple, turkeys 2s. 8½d.,
barn

barn door fowl 1s. 1d., ducks 1s. 1d., chickens 4d. to 10d., but they always require fattening, before they are fit for use. Fish is hawked by carriers from Limerick &c., and generally cheap. Wheat has been steadily rising these seven years past, and, (not taking these latter two years into consideration,) may be fairly rated at 30s. per barrel; oats will not be found in the same time to have exceeded an average of 11s. 6d., bere and barley in a much higher proportion, appear to equal 20s. per barrel; the year's stock of potatoes might be laid in at particular times during that period, for 2d. per stone.

Beef has encreased in price with a demand for the victualling of the army, and other meat has risen in proportion with it.

But the rise on land is still more alarming, and seems to promise but a small reduction in the price of provisions, when a peace shall be concluded. In thirty years, land has risen in this country to double its former rent.

SECT. 3. *Fuel.*

In no part of this country is there a lack of fuel, and the average price on the bog, ready faved and clamped, may amount to 13s. per hundred, statute-kifhes, (six score to the hundred).

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIX.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

SECT. 1. *Roads & Bridges.*

THE roads of this country coming under general consideration, certainly require more care and attention than now seems to be practised, and nothing can be said to recommend them. Materials are excellent and convenient enough, as gravel is very plenty: the breadth is in most places sufficient, but the gravel is laid with too sparing a hand; bridges are too generally narrow, and with very low arches, which throw much back water on the adjoining flats.

SECT. 2. *Canals.*

THE line of the Grand canal to Philipstown and Tullamore is the only navigation through this county,
and

and is a material advantage to the district, through which it passes. Levels have been taken, and the line laid out for a further extension of this canal to the Shannon, with off branches to Birr and other towns, which is not yet put into execution.

SECT. 3. & 4. *Fairs & Markets.*

THE fairs of this country are ranged in alphabetical order in the tables at the conclusion of this book. Sheep and store cattle are their principal trade. The markets are noted in the table of towns and villages.

SECT. 5. *Commerce & Manufactures.*

THE woollen manufacture is scarcely to be considered as any of the trade of this country; whilst premiums were distributed at Maryborough, they were a stimulus to its extension.

The linen manufacture is in its infancy, and in spirited hands, but without laws to protect it (at least so the proprietors conceive,) it would be well they were informed by the linen board of their privileges. A great district is favourable to this pursuit, and it would

would be a national benefit, that their present disposition for the improvement and extension of the trade was duly encouraged.

Their fairs constitute the principal commerce of the county, which lies in cattle.

Taking a summary view of the county, we find agriculture improving, and the greatest capabilities in the soil.

The principal great works requisite to be done, *the draining of their moors, a better attention to their farm yard, an application to the manure of limestone gravel, and principally a serious determination to meliorate the condition of the poor.*

SECTION II. TABLE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

Ballibric.	21,600	29,000	91	41.	67.	387.	587.	privileges value 82.	from 82.	to 100.
Total,	135,932	126,268	699							

Note.—In English measure, the length of this county is 44 miles, the breadth 41, the area is 453,370 acres, or 707 square miles.

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SECTION II.
TABLE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

BARONIES.	Average value per acre.			Potatoes.	Sheep per hundred.	Lambs per hundred.	Meadow per acre.	Average value of arable and pasture land together.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Bere and Barley.					
Garrycattle	6s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	5s. 0d.	exempt	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	exempt	18s. per acre.
Upper Philipstown	8s. 0d.	5s. 6d.	5s. 6d.	exempt	60s. 0d.	40s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	25s. per acre.
Lower Ditto	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	8s. 0d.	exempt	60s. 0d.	40s. 0d.	5s. 6d.	28s. 6d. per a.
Legh or Fircal	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	8s. 0d.	exempt	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	28s. 6d. per a.
Balliboy	2s. 0d.	1s. 0d.	1s. 0d.	exempt	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	25s. per acre.
Ballibrit	6s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	6s. 0d.	exempt	30s. 0d.	20s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	20s. per acre.
Ballicowen	6s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	5s. 0d.	6s. 6d.	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	3s. 3d.	18s. per acre.
Warrenstown	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	8s. 0d.	exempt	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	exempt	30s. per acre.
Coolstown	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	8s. 0d.	exempt	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	exempt	30s. per acre.
Clonilk	6s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	6s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	20s. 0d.	3s. 3d.	28s. per acre.
Kilcourley	8s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	8s. 0d.	exempt	50s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	25s. per acre.
Gelhill	8s. 0d.	5s. 6d.	6s. 6d.	6s. 6d.	40s. 0d.	30s. 0d.	4s. 0d.	20s. per acre.

By the average value is meant, the rent the lands in each barony would bring, if they were out of lease.

Note—The greater part of the arable of Balliboy is glebe land, and the above is the rate of the tithe collected on glebe; other lands pay double tithe; rape, potatoes, and turnips are exempt; flax pays one penny per pottle.

In upper Philipstown half barony, flax, potatoes, cabbage, and rape are exempt; no modus.

In Kilcoursey barony, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, and rape are exempt; there is a modus of one penny per pottle for flax, and in Kilmanagban parish is a modus of three years standing; meadow 4s., wheat and bere 8s., oats and barley 4s.; sheep 50s. per hundred; potatoes and flax exempt.

In Geshill barony, cabbages, turnips, flax and rape are exempt; no modus.

In Clonlisk barony, cabbage, turnips, flax, and rape are exempt; no modus.

In English or Fircal barony, cabbage, turnips, flax, rape, and potatoes are exempt; no modus.

In Coolestown barony, cabbage, turnips, flax, rape, hay, and potatoes are exempt; no modus.

In lower Philipstown half barony, rape, flax, turnips, cabbage, and potatoes are exempt; no modus.

In Ballicowen barony, flax, rape, turnips, and cabbage are exempt; no modus.

In Ballibrit barony, flax, rape, turnips, cabbage, and potatoes are exempt; no modus. Hay exempt in St. Keiran's parish in this barony.

In Warrenstown half barony, flax, potatoes, rape, turnips, cabbage, and hay are exempt; no modus.

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In Garrycastle barony, potatoes, hay, rape, cabbage, and turnips are exempt; flax pays a modus of one penny per pottle.

ECCLESIASTICAL

ECCLESIASTICAL DENOMINATIONS,

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

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1. AGHANCON, is a rectory in the barony of Ballibrit, and hath eleven acres of glebe, but no parsonage; is in the diocese of Killaloe, and hath a parish church.
 2. BALLIBOGHAN, is a chapelry in Coolestown barony, and diocese of Meath; the remainder of this parish is near Clonard, in Meath county, eight miles off.
 3. BALLIBOY, is a vicarage in the barony of Balliboy, and diocese of Meath, united to Killaghy, and is impropriate, and hath a glebe.
 4. BALLICOMMON, is a rectory in the barony of Philipstown, and diocese of Kildare, united to Kilclonfert and Philipstown, and hath a glebe.
 5. BALLIKANE, is a vicarage in the barony of Gefhill, and diocese of Kildare, and hath seven acres of glebe.
 6. BALLIMACKWILLIAM, is a rectory in the barony of Warrenstown, and diocese of Kildare; hath sixteen acres of glebe; no parsonage; old church in ruins: the parish church is at Ballihurley.
 7. BALLINAKILL,

7. **BALLINAKILL**, is a vicarage in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare; parish church at Clonbullock. It is impropriate; united to Cloncast and Meelick; no glebe or parsonage.
8. **BIRR**, is a rectory in the barony of Ballibrit, and diocese of Killaloe, and hath a glebe and parsonage.
9. **BONOHAN**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe, but the principal part of this parish is in the county of Tipperary.
10. **CASTLETOWN ELY**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe; no parsonage, but hath twenty-one acres of glebe; church in ruins.
11. **CASTROPETER**, is a rectory in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare; parish church at Edenderry.
12. **CLONCAST**, is a vicarage in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare; is impropriate; united to Ballinakill and Meelick; no glebe or parsonage; church in ruins.
13. **CLONCHURCH**, is a chapelry in the barony of Philipstown, and diocese of Kildare, united to Geshill and Killeighy; church in ruins.
14. **CLONEHOCK**, is a rectory in the barony of Geshill, and diocese of Kildare, united to Geshill and Killeighy.
15. **CLONLYON**, is a rectory in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath, and has an hundred acres of glebe.

16. CLONMACNOISE, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath; hath glebe and parsonage; church is in ruins.
17. CROGHAN, is a rectory in the barony of Philipstown, and diocese of Kildare, united to Kilclonfert and Philipstown; church in ruins.
18. CULLENWAIN, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe; no parsonage or glebe; church in ruins.
19. DRUMCOOLEY, is a rectory in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare, united with Monasterris; no glebe or parsonage; parish church is at Edenderry.
20. DRUMCULLIN, is a vicarage in the barony of Eglish, and diocese of Meath, united to Killahy; church in ruins; it is impropriate.
21. DUNKERRIN, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe; it hath a glebe of forty-two acres. The parishes of Castletown, Ely, Cullenwaine, Finglass, Templeharry, and Rathnaveague, were united to Dunkerrin in the reign of Charles II.; the Bishop made two benefices of this union two years ago.
22. DURROW, is a curacy in the barony of Ballincowen, and the diocese of Meath; it is wholly impropriate.
23. EGLISH, is a vicarage in the barony of Eglish or Fircal, and the diocese of Meath, united to Killahy, is impropriate, and hath a glebe.

24. ETTAGH,

24. **ETTAGH**, is a rectory in the barony of Ballibrit, and the diocese of Killaloe, and hath twenty acres of glebe; is united to Roscrea in the county of Tipperary.
25. **FINGLASS**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe, united to Dunkerrin; no parsonage, and hath twenty-one acres of glebe; church in ruins.
26. **GALIN**, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath, united to Gallen and Reynagh; church in ruins.
27. **GALLIN**, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath, united to Reynagh and Galen, is impropriate, and church in ruins.
28. **GESHILL**, is a rectory in the barony of Geshill, and diocese of Kildare, hath thirty acres of glebe, and a parsonage; Killeighy and Clonehock are united to this parish.
29. **HARRISTOWN**, is a rectory in the insulated part of this county, which is in Kildare county, and in the diocese of Kildare; church in ruins.
30. **KILBRACKEN**, is a rectory in the insulated part of this county, which is in Kildare county, and is in the diocese of Kildare.
31. **KILBRIDE**, is a chapelry in the barony of Geshill, and diocese of Meath; parish church at Tullamore; church in ruins.
32. **KILBRIDETANGAN**, is a chapelry in the barony of Kilcourfey, and diocese of Meath; parish church at
Clara,

Clara ; wholly inappropriate ; united to Ardmurcher, in the county of Westmeath, and hath a small glebe.

33. **KILCLONFERT**, is a rectory and vicarage in the barony of Philipstown, and diocese of Kildare : Croghan and Philipstown were united to this parish ; church in ruins.

34. **KILCOLEMAN**, is a rectory and vicarage in the barony of Ballibrit, and diocese of Killaloe ; it is united to Roscrea in the county of Tipperary, and hath a glebe ; church in ruins.

35. **KILCOMIN**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and the diocese of Killaloe ; it hath twenty-one acres of glebe, and is inappropriate ; church in ruins.

36. **KILLAGHY**, or **KILLOGHY**, is a vicarage in the barony of Balliboy, and diocese of Meath, hath 1,800 acres of glebe ; is inappropriate. The parishes of Drumcullin, Balliboy, Eglisb, Lynally, and Rahan, are united to the parish ; it hath also parsonage.

37. **KILLEGALLY**, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath ; parish church is at Ferbane : it has a glebe of an hundred acres, and is united to the parishes of Lemanaghan and Tessaunan.

38. **KILLEIGHY**, is a vicarage in the barony of Geshill, and diocese of Kildare, united to Geshill with Clonchurch ; church in ruins.

39. **KILLIGNY**, or **PRIMULT**, is a vicarage in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare.

40. **KILLINCUR**, is a chapelry in the barony of Geshill, and diocese of Kildare.

41. **KILMANAGHAN**,

41. **KILMANAGHAN**, is a chapelry, and is impropriate in the barony of Kilcoursey, and diocese of Meath, united to Ardmurcher in the county of Westmeath, and hath a small glebe; church in ruins.
42. **KILMURRY ELY**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and the diocese of Killaloe, united to Shinrone, and hath thirty-one acres of glebe, and parsonage; church in ruins.
43. **KINITTY**, is a rectory in the barony of Ballibrit, and diocese of Killaloe, united to Roscomroe and Littur, hath a small glebe.
44. **LEMANAGHAN**, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and the diocese of Meath; parish church is at Lifs; hath a glebe, and is united to Killegally and Tessaaran.
45. **LITTUR**, is a rectory in the barony of Ballibritt, and diocese of Killaloe, united to Roscomroe and Kinitty; hath a small glebe.
46. **LUSMAGH**, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Clonsfert.
47. **LYNALLY**, is a vicarage in the barony of Ballincowen, and diocese of Meath, united to Killahy; is impropriate, and hath a glebe.
48. **MEELICK**, is a vicarage in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare, united to Ballinakill and Clonsfert; no glebe or parsonage.
49. **MONASTERORIS**, is a rectory in the barony of Coolestown, and diocese of Kildare, united to Drumcooly; no glebe or parsonage; church in ruins; parish church is at Edenderry.

30. **PHILIPSTOWN**,

50. PHILIPSTOWN, is a vicarage in the barony of Philipstown, and diocese of Kildare, hath one acre of glebe, united to Kilelfert; is impropriate.
51. RAGHAN, is a vicarage in the barony of Ballicowen, and diocese of Meath, united to Killahy; is impropriate, and hath a glebe; church in ruins.
52. RATHNAVEAGUE, is a rectory and vicarage in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe, but principally is in the county of Tipperary, and united to Dunkerrin.
53. REYNAGH, is a vicarage wholly impropriate, in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath; the parish church is at Banagher, and hath a glebe and parsonage, and the parish of Gallen is united to this.
54. ROSCOMROE, is a vicarage in the barony of Ballibrit, and diocese of Killaloe, united to Kinnitty and Littur; it hath a small glebe, and is impropriate; church in ruins.
55. SHINRONE, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe, and hath twenty-one acres of glebe.
56. ST. KEIRAN, is a vicarage in the barony of Ballibritt, and diocese of Ossory, impropriate; and hath twenty acres of glebe.
57. TEMPLEHARRY, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe; no parsonage or glebe; church in ruins, but a new church is building.
58. TESSAURAN, is a vicarage in the barony of Garrycastle, and diocese of Meath, united to Lemanaghan and

and Killigally; hath a glebe, and is impropriate; church in ruins.

59. **TOOME**, is a rectory in the barony of Clonlisk, and diocese of Killaloe; church in ruins.

60. **TULLAMORE**, is a chapelry in the barony of Ballincowen, and diocese of Meath.

Note—There are but fifty-two entire parishes in the county.

SECT.

SECT. 4.

TABLE OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

BARONIES.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
Garrycastle,	Banagher, M. P. 3.	Ballicumber, Bellair, Cloghan, Ferbane, Raghera, Shannon Bridge.
Upper and Lower Philipstown,	Philipstown, M. P. 3.	Clonagown, Johnville.
Balliboy,	Balliboy, M. P. 3.	Ballinagarry, Frankford.
Ballibrit,	Birr, M. P. 3.	Cadam's-town, Drumoyle, Leap.
Ballicowen,	Tullamore, M. P. 3.	Ballicowen, Rahan.
Warrenstown,		Rhode.
Coolestown,	Edenderry, M. P. 3.	Ballinure, Clonbullock.
Clonlisk,	Shinrone, M. P. 3.	Brofna, Dunkerrin. Kilcomin, Moneygall.
Kilcourfey,	Clara, M. P. 3.	Charles-town.
Geshill,		Ballinagar, Geshill, M. Killeigh, M.
Eglifh or Fircal.		

M. Denotes a market, P. a post town, and the figure the number of days in the week on which the post comes in.

SECT.

SECT. 5.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL LANDED PROPRIETORS.

ANNALY, Right Hon. Lady,

Armstrong, John, B. Esq.

———, J. —— Esq.

———, S. —— Esq.

Atkinson, Jackson Ray, Esq.

BAGOT, Rev. Charles,

Baldwin, Charles, Esq.

Bennett, Thomas, Esq.

Bernard, Thomas, Esq.

———, Thomas, Jun. Esq.

Berry, Thomas, Esq.

———, Thomas, Esq.

Birr, ———, Esq.

Burton, William, Esq.

CARROLL,

CARROLL, William, Esq.

Caffin, ———, Esq.

Charleville, Right Hon. Lord Viscount,

Chinevex family,

Curtis, William, Esq.

DALTON, Captain,

Daly, Denis Bowes, Esq.

Dames, ——— Esq.

Darby, John, Esq.

———, Jonathan, Esq.

Digby, Right Hon. Earl of,

Dorchester, Right Hon. Earl of,

Downes, Judge,

Downshire, Most Noble Marquis of,

Drogheda, Most Noble Marquis of,

Drought, John, Esq.

———, John, Esq.

———, Thomas, Esq.

ENWRIGHT, ——— Esq.

Fawcett, ——— Esq.

Flood, ——— Esq.

Freeman, ——— Esq.

Fuller, William, Esq.

GIFFARD, Sir Duke, Bart.

Glandore, Right Hon. Earl of,

Gore, ——— Esq.

HENRY,

HENRY, John, Esq.

Holmes, ——— Esq.

Hutchinsons, Miss,

JACKSON, ——— Esq.

Judge, ——— Esq.

KEMMIS, Thomas, Esq.

LADAVEZE, ——— Esq.

Lambert, ——— Esq.

Lansdown, Most Noble Marquis of,

Lefrange, ——— Esq.

Lewis, ——— Esq.

Lowe, ——— Esq.

Lloyd, John, Esq.

Lucas, ——— Esq.

Lumm, Colonel,

MACARTNEY, Right Hon. Earl of,

Magan, Thomas, Esq.

Malone, ——— Esq.

Marchbank, ——— Esq.

Meath, Right Rev. Bishop of,

Medlicott, Doolan, Esq.

Miltown, Right Hon. Earl of,

Minchin, William, Esq.

Moore, ——— Esq.

Mountrath,

Mountrath, Right Hon. Earl of,
Mullock, Rev. Doctor,
———, Thomas, Esq.

NESBITT, ——— Esq.
———, Thomas, Esq.
North, Roger, Esq.

O'CONNOR, ——— Esq.

PALMER, J. Esq.
———, Sandford, Esq.
Parsons, Rev. William,
——— Sir Lawrence, Bart.
Pepper, ——— Esq.
Percy, ——— Esq.
Pike, ——— Esq.
Pim, ——— Esq.
Pole, Hon. W. Wellesley,
Ponsonby, Right Hon. Wm. Brabazon
Purefoy, ——— Esq.

ROLLESTON, Thomas, Esq.

SABATIER, ——— Esq.
Sandford, ——— Esq.
Sandys, Launcelot, Esq.
———, Pigot, Esq.
Saunders, Morley, Esq.

Sennight,

OF THE KING'S COUNTY.

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Sennight, Thomas, Esq.

Stepney, ——— Esq.

Sunderlin, Right Hon. Lord,

Synge, George, Esq.

TARLETON, Captain Weldon,

Trench, ——— Esq.

Trimlestown, Right Hon. Lord,

Trinity College, Dublin, .

VAUGHAN, ——— Esq.

WAKELY, Thomas, Esq.

Warburton, Colonel,

Westenra, ——— Esq.

Winter, Samuel, Esq.

Wolfe, John, Esq.

SECT.

SECT. 6.

LIST OF FAIRS.

JANUARY.

Cloghan,	1st, custom free
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FEBRUARY.

Birr,	11th,
Clara,	1st, custom free
Cloghan,	24th, ditto
Edenderry,	25th,

MARCH.

Cloghan,	17th, custom free
Philipstown,	28th,

APRIL.

Charlestown,	20th,
Cloghan, custom free	} 1st,
Cregan,	

MAY.

OF THE KING'S COUNTY.

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MAY.

Balliboy,	4th,
Ballycumber,	2d,
Banagher,	1ft,
Banagrotty,	21ft,
Birr,	5th,
Brofna,	8th,
Clara,	12th, custom free
Cloghan,	14th,
Dunkerrin,	31ft,
Edenderry,	19th,
Frankford,	28th,
Geshill,	1ft,
Kilcommin,	4th,
Killyon,	16th,
Moneygall,	8th,
Rahillane,	14th,
Shannon Bridge,	6th,
Tullamore,	10th,

JUNE.

Cloghan,	21ft, custom free
Edenderry,	5th,
Killeigh,	1ft,
Killion,	2d,
Philipstown,	22d,
Shannon Bridge,	24th,

JULY.

JULY.

Ballicowan,	31st,
Clara,	25th, custom free
Cloghan, custom free	} 11th,
Clonbullock,	
Clonagown,	22d,
Kilcommin,	5th,
Shinrone,	9th,
Tullamore,	10th,

AUGUST.

Balliboy,	21st,
Banagrotty,	11th,
Birr,	25th,
Brofna,	4th,
Caherconlisk,	20th,
Cloghan,	15th,
Clononey,	16th,
Cullenwaine,	20th,
Ferbane,	2d,
Moneygall,	3d,

SEPTEMBER.

Banagher,	15th, four days
Cloghan,	8th, custom free

Seven

OF THE KING'S COUNTY.

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Seven Churches, 19th,
Shannon Bridge, 29th.

OCTOBER.

Banagher,	28th,
Charlestown	20th,
Cloghan,	} 29th,
Clonbullock,	
Ferbane.	20th,
Gefhill,	6th,
Kilcommin,	18th,
Killieagh.	16th,
Killyon,	10th,
Kinnitty,	2d,
Tullamore,	21st,

NOVEMBER.

Banagher,	8th,
Cattlecuff,	23d,
Clara,	1st, custom free
Cullenwaine,	11th,
Dunkerin,	3d,
Edenderry,	4th,
Frankford,	8th,
Moneygall,	24th,
Shinrone,	21st,

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o

DECEMBER.

DECEMBER.

Balliboy,	6th,
Ballicumber,	1st,
Birr,	10th,
Cloghan,	12th,
Cregan,	} 21st,
Dunkerrin,	
Geshill,	26th,
Philipstown,	3d,
Shannon-bridge,	21st, custom free.

CHAPTER XXI.

FARMING SOCIETY.

The benefits that may result from agricultural societies are so great and numerous, that they deserve all possible attention and encouragement, and I could have wished to have seen the names of the gentlemen of the King's county, enrolled with those of the Midland Farming Society;—In a country possessing such capabilities and having residents of such spirit and wealth, it is hoped they will now see the necessity of forming a society amongst themselves.

I therefore take the liberty to suggest a few hints which are submitted with deference to their better judgment.

HEADS OF A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY IN THE KING'S COUNTY.

A society to be formed of the principal gentlemen of the county under the patronage of the Dublin Society.

Dependent on the approval of this original Society, and subject to their regulations, baronial or parochial Societies may be formed, as may answer local convenience, the president and secretary of each to be nominated by the committee of the grand original Society.

Each member of the grand Society, shall subscribe annually a sum not less than———guineas, and each member of the smaller Society, shall subscribe a sum not less than———

These subscriptions shall be appropriated for premiums for the encouragement of agriculture in the county, planting, draining, breed of cattle, &c. &c. and as the subscription is within the ability of every farmer, no person but a subscribing member shall be entitled to a premium. It is presumed this will be the means of increasing the funds of the Society, and of course will create an emulation in improvement amongst every description.

A president, secretary, and acting committee, to be chosen annually, this committee to consist of at least ——members of the grand Society, and a full meeting to be held after due notice every six months, for the purpose of receiving claims and adjudging premiums.

As a considerable part of the county is enjoyed by absentee proprietors, it is proposed they shall be applied to for subscriptions, which doubtless they will concur in, for the improvement of their estates, and
the

the benefit of their tenantry; this application to be made to them, previous to the formation of the grand Society, that they may have the advantage of becoming original members. An active agent to be appointed who shall inspect each claimants grounds, and faithfully report the same to the grand committee, he should also be a correct draughtsman, for the purpose of viewing the Dublin Society's improved implements of husbandry, taking plans thereof, and give up the entire of his time and attention to the business of the Society, for which a suitable salary would be allowed him.

It should be also necessary that money adjudged in premiums for planting, &c. should be handed to the Dublin Society, that they might pay the same to the farmer, who should give them sufficient security to preserve such plantations or enclosures, &c. from cattle, for ten years: the intended Society not being a corporate body, might not have powers to recover from defaulters.

The Society will of course feel the necessity of encouraging the apprenticing of youth to such farmers as have distinguished themselves, doubtless, the business of farming is more scientifically pursued in England or Scotland, and as yet induce a preference of seeking a master there.

The art of husbandry embracing such various and numerous branches of science, cannot be attained with any degree of perfection but by the closest attention and long servitude.

As

As the principal object of the Society must be the hopes of amending the practice of agriculture amongst the peasantry, as well as the more wealthy farmers of the county, it is proposed that only a certain proportion of the money subscribed by the grand Society shall be liable to be distributed in premiums *amongst themselves*, that the *remaining part* of their subscription, as also the *whole of* the subscriptions of the lesser farmers, shall by no means be applicable to any other purpose, but for the particular benefit of small farmers only, this will be an encouragement to every farmer in the county to subscribe his mite, and would excite an emulation for improvement, in hopes to merit the proposed reward, and will also shew him that the main view of the Society is his particular interest. The Society will surely see the necessity for offering considerable premiums for the reclaiming of moor.

CHAPTER XXII.

PREMIUMS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF HEMP, OFFERED
BY THE LINEN BOARD.

AT a meeting of the *TRUSTEES OF THE LINEN AND HEMP MANUFACTURE OF IRELAND*, on Tuesday, the 3d of March, 1801.

Hon. JOHN BARON DILLON in the chair

The Right Hon. *John Foster* reported from the Committee a plan of encouragement for promoting the growth of hemp and the establishment of the sail cloth manufactory which was read and is as follows :

HEMP.

The trustees of the linen and hempen manufacture, anxious that this kingdom should effectually lay hold of the present opportunity which the interruption of trade with the northern states offers for promoting the growth of hemp, and the establishment of the sail cloth manufacture, call upon all landholders or farmers to assist their endeavours, by allotting some portion of their ground to the raising of hemp.

They

They understand it is as easy in its culture as flax, the richer the soil and the deeper the loam the better will be the produce, it succeeds admirably in drained bog manured with ashes; and the trustees propose to procure a sufficient number of persons properly skilled in the management of it from the time it is ripe for pulling, until it is made fit for the spinner.

These persons will be stationed in various parts of the kingdom, and orders will be given to the county inspectors to receive all applications from gentlemen or farmers who may desire their assistance, and to send them accordingly.

The trustees will also give the following bounties, and continue them for three years.

BREAKING AND SCUTCHING.

1. For every stone of Hemp grown in this kingdom in the years 1801, 1802 and 1803, well broken and scutched for the hatchel or for cordage, the sum of 4*d.* and a further bounty of a complete set of hemp hatchels to every person who shall have broken and scutched half a ton weight thereof.

2. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery wherein not less than 30 tons of sound hemp of Irish growth shall be broken and scutched perfectly before the 1st of June 1802, the sum of 100*l.*

3. To

3. To the owner of any mill or mill machinery which shall be erected after the 1st of May 1801, whether entirely new or added to an old mill wherein there shall be broken and scutched, the greatest quantity of found hemp of Irish growth, between the 1st of June 1802, and the 1st of June 1803, not less than 50 ton, the sum of 150*l*.— for the next greatest quantity, not less than 40 ton, between the said periods, the sum of 100*l*.—and for the next greatest quantity, not less than 30 ton, between the said periods. the sum of 50*l*.

4. To the owner of any mill, or mill-machinery, now or hereafter to be erected, wherein there shall be broken and scutched, the greatest quantity of found hemp of Irish growth, between the 1st of June 1803, and the 1st of June 1804, not less than 100 ton, the sum of 300*l*.—for the next greatest quantity, not less than 80 ton, the sum of 200*l*.—and for the next greatest quantity, not less than 60 ton, the sum of 100*l*.

5. For every stone of hemp, of Irish growth, well watered, rotted and scutched, which shall be hackled and dressed fit for spinning, between the 1st of August, 1801, and the 1st of August, 1804, the sum of 3*d*.

SPINNING.

6. For all machinery which shall be erected, whether entirely new or added to old mills, for spinning hemp or flax for sail cloth, before the 1st of August, 1802, to be worked by water or steam, a sum after the rate of 10s. for every spindle it shall contain, on sufficient security being given that the number of spindles for which such premium shall be received, shall be regularly kept at work in spinning hemp or flax for three years.

For this premium the sum of 3000*l.* will be appropriated—and if more than 6000 spindles shall be claimed for, the trustees will reserve to themselves the power of dividing the sum of 3000*l.* rateably among the claimants.

7. To the person who shall spin such yarn by such machinery, before the 1st of August, 1804, a sail cloth loom made of the best materials, and on the most improved plan, will be ordered by the trustees for every two ton of good even merchantable yarn so spun; every such loom to continue the property of the board, into whosoever hands such spinner may give it.

ITINERANT HEMP DRESSERS.

All persons who can produce sufficient proof of being perfectly skilled in the management of hemp throughout all its indifferent processes, from the time it is pulled until it is completely dressed for spinning, and wish to engage with the trustees, are desired to apply to their Secretary, at the linen office, Dublin, or their Agent, Edward Stewart, Esq. Aldermanbury, London, and the first twelve who shall be approved of, will be appointed itinerant hemp dressers, at 30*l.* a year each, and will have liberty to receive from the persons whom they shall be ordered to attend, such reasonable allowance as the trustees shall previously sanction.

MILL WRIGHT & MACHINE MAKERS.

All persons of this description, in Great Britain or Ireland, who wish to be employed in constructing any machinery for the scuthing, dressing, spinning, or weaving of hemp, may register their names, characters, and prices or terms if they choose, in the Linen-office,
Dublin,

Dublin, where a book will be kept for the purpose, and be open at all times to the inspection of any person who may wish to erect machinery.

And the same being read paragraph by paragraph, was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be published.

By order of the trustees,

JAMES CORRY, SEC.

LINEN-OFFICE.

THE following Letter from the Navy-Office to the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign plantations, has been sent by their Lordships' orders to the Right Hon. JOHN FOSTER, to be communicated to the trustees of the Linen and Hempen manufactures.

JAS. CORRY, Sec. to the trustees.

SIR.

Our Secretary having laid before us your letter of the 24th of last month, transmitting, by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and foreign

reign plantations, to whom it had been referred to consider what measures it may be most proper to propose to Parliament for encouraging the growth of hemp, &c —copies of two minutes made by their Lordships on the 23d January and 21st March last on that subject, and signifying their Lordship's desire that we state to the committee what steps we have taken in consequence of the previous communications on this subject, and what further steps we may think necessary to be taken in order to carry the intentions of the committee, as expressed in the said Minute, into complete execution.

We desire you will please to acquaint their Lordships, that, wishing to give all possible encouragement to the cultivation of hemp in Ireland, agreeably to their Lordships intentions, we are willing to engage to receive into his majesty's stores all such hemp as may be proved to be Irish growth, and shall be found fit for the navy, for three years, from the present time, at the market price of the day on which the same may be received; and will further engage, that the price shall not, during that period, be less than 50*l.* sterling per ton.

With respect to canvas, the only encouragement we can hold out to the Irish manufacturers is, that of not sending any from this country for the supply of his Majesty's ships stationed on the coast of Ireland, and the authorising our agent, Mr. Browne, of Kinsale, to purchase from the Irish manufacturers, at the market price, such quantities of sail cloth as may be wanted
for

for those ships; and also when making future contracts for the supply of that article for the navy, to put the Irish manufacturers upon the same footing as the manufactures of England and Scotland, provided they make the article conformably to the existing act of parliament for the manufacture thereof.

We are, Sir, your very humble servants,

A. S. HAMOND,
J. HENSLOW,
GEO. ROGERS,
W. BELLINGHAM,

Navy-office, May 8, 1801. S. GAMBIER.

Sir Stephen Cottrell,
Council-office.

CHAPTER XXIII.

CONCLUSION.

I NOW beg leave to return my very sincere thanks to the gentlemen of this county, for their polite attention, and the kind assistance they favoured me with in my enquiries. What I have here recited, I have given as I received from them; having been a total stranger in the King's County, I was wholly unacquainted with their soil, their manners, or customs.

I have now to entreat their indulgence for such inaccuracies as they may find, which I shall be thankful to have pointed out, that they may be amended in the next edition. In so minute an enquiry, there will consequently be found omissions, I should wish to rectify. The hurry with which I am naturally pressed, in having made a tour of four counties in Ireland within twelve months, and prepared my reports of each of them for press in that time, will, I trust, be some excuse for the desultory way in which I have touched on subjects of such importance, and which never should be presented to public view, if I did not intend to give them a close
correction,

correction, when I shall be favoured with the sentiments of the gentlemen of the King's county, to whom they are with deference submitted,

By their obliged,

And very humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

Charlemont-street,

May 1, 1801.

AN Account of Premiums adjudged by the Dublin Society, for Planting in the King's County, since the Year 1786; where security has been given to preserve the same for ten years, from the date of the grant.

<i>To whom</i>	<i>For what</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Report of present state.</i>
Thomas Drought	Enclosing plantations	10	1788	These plantations well inclosed, and in good heart.
Thomas Drought	Planting oaks	2	1789	Ditto.
C. W. Bury	Enclosing plantations	10	1789	In great vigour, and most carefully inclosed, but too thickly planted.
C. W. Bury	Ditto	10	1790	Ditto.
Thomas Drought	Ditto	10	1790	Thriving very well, and taken good care of.
C. R. Shervington	Copling woods	14	1793	This copse is out of Mr. Shervington's possession, but the present proprietor has tolerably well preserved the young growth.
George Syngé	Enclosing plantations	10	1796	Mr. Syngé's plantations (except in the vallies approaching the house) are but in a very unpromising condition; the deciduous trees are mostly cut down, to encourage their growth: from the extreme dryness of soil, being poor, shallow, and very much exposed, 'tis scarcely to be expected they will recover; I have recommended to have the ground planted over with the Scotch fir, which seems to agree best with the soil.
George Syngé	Ditto	10	1797	
George Syngé	Planting oaks	5	1798	
The inspection of this Report was made in July 1800.				CHARLES COOTE



References to the annexed Plate of a patent Drill-Machine, invented by the Rev. JAMES COOKE, of Heaton-Norris, near Manchester,† and of a new constructed simple Hand-Hoe.*

A, the upper part of the feed-box.

B, the lower part of the same box.

C, a moveable partition, with a lever, by which the grain or seed is let fall at pleasure from the upper to the lower part of the feed-box, from whence it is taken up by cups or ladles applied to the cylinder D, and dropped into the funnel E, and conveyed thereby into the furrow or drill, made in the land by the coulter F, and covered by the rake or harrow G.

H, a lever, by which the wheel I, is lifted out of gear with the wheel K, to prevent the grain or seed being scattered upon the ground, while the machine is turning round at the end of the land, by which the harrow G is also lifted from the ground at the same time, and by the same motion, by means of the crank, and the horizontal lever *b b*.

L, a sliding lever, with a weight upon it, by means of which, the depth of the furrows or drills, and consequently the depth that the grain or seed will be deposited in the land, may be easily ascertained.

M, a screw in the coulter-beam, by turning of which, the feed-box B, is elevated or depressed, in order to prevent the grain or seed being crushed or bruised by the revolution of the cups or ladles.

N, a rake with iron teeth, to be applied to the under-side of the rails of the machine, with staples and screw nuts at *n n*, by which many useful purposes are answered, viz. in accu-

* For Plate, see page 70.

† Now at No. 7, Oxford-street, London.

mulating clitch or hay into rows, and as a scarificator for young crops of wheat in the spring, or to be used upon a fallow; in which case, the seed-box, the ladle cylinder, the coulter, the funnels, and harrows, are all taken away.

O, is a new constructed simple Hand-Hoe, by which one man will effectually hoe two chain acres per day, earthing up the soil at the same time to the rows of corn or pulse, so as to cause roots to issue from the first joint of the stem, above the surface of the land, which otherwise would never have existed.

This side view of the machine is represented, for the sake of perspicuity, with one seed-box only, one coulter, one funnel, one harrow, &c. whereas a complete machine is furnished with five coulters, five harrows, seven funnels, a seed-box in eight partitions, &c. with ladles, of different sizes, for different sorts of grain and seeds.

Directions

Directions for using the Machine.

The ladle cylinder D (see the plate) is furnished with cups or ladles of four different sizes for different sorts of grain or seeds, which may be distinguished by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

No. 1, (the smallest size) is calculated for turnip-feed, clover-feed, cole-feed, rape, &c. and will sow something more than one pound per statute acre.

No. 2, for wheat, rye, hemp, flax, &c. and will sow something more than one bushel per acre.

No. 3, for barley; and will sow one bushel and a half per acre.

No. 4, for beans, oats, pease, vetches, &c. and will sow two bushels per acre.

Notwithstanding the above specified quantities of grain or seeds, a greater or less quantity of each may be sown at pleasure, by stopping up with a little clay, or by adding a few ladles to each respective box. The grain or seed intended to be sown, must be put in those boxes, to which the cups or ladles as above described respectively belong, an equal quantity into each box, and all the other boxes empty. The ladle cylinder may be reversed, or turned end for end at pleasure, for different sorts of grain, &c.

For sowing beans, oats, pease, &c. with a five-coulter machine, four large ladles must occasionally be applied at equal distances round those parts of the cylinder which
subtend

subtend the two end boxes. And for sowing barley, eight large ones must be applied as above ; or four ladles, No. 2, to each of the wheat boxes. These additional ladles are fixed on the cylinder with nails, or taken off in a few minutes ; but for sowing with a four-coulter machine, the above alterations are not necessary.

The funnels are applied to their respective places by corresponding numbers. Care should be taken, that the points of the funnels stand directly behind the backs of the coulters, which is done by wedges being applied to one side or other of the coulters, at the time they are fixed in their respective places.

The machine being thus put together, (see the plate) which is readily and expeditionly done, as no separate part will coincide with any other but that to which it respectively belongs, and an equal quantity of grain or seed in each of the respective boxes, the land also being previously ploughed and harrowed once or so, in a plate to level the surface ; but if the land be very rough, a roller will best answer that purpose, whenever the land is dry enough to admit of it ; and upon strong clays, a spiked roller is sometimes necessary to reduce the size of the large dry clods ; which being done, the driver should walk down the furrow or edge of the land, and having hold of the last horse's head with his hand, he will readily keep him in such a direction, as will bring the outside coulter of the machine within three or four inches of the edge of the land or ridge, at which uniform extent, he should keep his arm till he comes to the end of the land ; where having turned round, he must come to the other side of his horses, and walking upon the last outside drill, having hold of the horses head with his hand as before, he will readily keep
the

the machine in such a direction, as will strike the succeeding drill at such a distance from the last outside one, or that he walks upon, as the coulters are distant from each other.

The person that attends the machine should put down the lever H, soon enough at the end of the land, that the cups or ladles may have time to fill, before he begins to sow; and at the end of the land, he must apply his right hand to the middle of the rail between the handles, by which he will keep the coulters in the ground, while he is lifting up the level H, with his left hand, to prevent the grain being scattered upon the headland, while the machine is turning round; this he will do with great ease, by continuing his right hand upon the rail between the handles, and applying his left arm under the left handle, in order to lift the coulters out of the ground, while the machine is turning round.

If there be any difficulty in using the machine, it consists in driving it straight. As to the person that attends the machine, he cannot possibly commit any errors, except such as are wilful, particularly as he sees at one view the whole process of the business, viz. that the coulters make the drills of a proper depth; that the funnels continue open to convey the grain or seed into the drills; that the rakes or harrows cover the grain sufficiently;—and when seed is wanting in the lower boxes B, which he cannot avoid seeing, he readily supplies them from the upper boxes A, by applying his hand, as the machine goes along, to the lever C. The lower boxes B, should not be suffered to become empty before they are supplied with seed, but should be kept nearly full, or within an inch or so of the edge of the box.

If

If chalk lines are made across the backs of the coulter, at such a distance from the ends as the seed should be deposited in the ground, (viz. about two inches for wheat, and from two to three for spring corn) the person that attends the machine will be better able to ascertain the depth the seed should be deposited in the drills, by observing, as the machine goes along, whether the chalk lines are above or below the surface of the land; if above, a proper weight must be applied to the lever L, which will force the coulters into the ground; if below, the lever L and weight must be reversed, which will prevent their sinking too deep.

Wheat that is brined and limed, should be made dry by spreading it thin upon a floor, and the loose particles of lime sifted out, before it is sown by the machine, otherwise the grain, by clogging together, will not be so regularly distributed in the drills. Good old seed-wheat is much better than new, and is not so subject to smut; this is proved by experience.

Upon wet soils or strong clays, wheat should not be deposited more than two inches deep, on any account whatever; nor less than two inches deep on dry soils. From two to three inches is a medium depth for all spring corn.—But the exact depth at which grain should be deposited in different soils, from the lightest sand to the strongest clay, is readily ascertained only by observing at what distance, under the surface of the land, the secondary or coronal roots are formed in the spring.

In different parts of the kingdom, lands or ridges are of different sizes; where the machine is too wide for the
land,

land, one or more funnels may occasionally be stopped with a little loose paper, and the seed received into such funnel returned at the end of the land, or sooner if required, into the upper seed-box. But for regularity and expedition, lands consisting of so many feet wide from outside to outside, as the machine contains coulters, when fixed at twelve inches distance, or twice or three times the number, &c. are best calculated for the machine. In wet soils, or strong clays, lands or ridges of the width of the machine, and in dry soils, of twice the width, are recommended. For sowing of narrow high-ridged lands, the outside coulters should be let down, and the middle ones raised, so that the points of the coulters may form the same curve, that the land or ridge forms. And the loose soil harrowed down into the furrows should be returned to the edges of the lands or ridges, from whence it came, by a double mould-board, or other plough, whether the land be wet or dry.

Clover or other lays, intended to be sown by the machine, should be ploughed a deep strong furrow, and well harrowed, in order to level the surface, and to get as much loose soil as possible for the coulters to work in; and when sown, if any of the seed appears in the drills uncovered, by reason of the stiff texture of the soil, or toughness of the roots, a light harrow may be taken over the land, once in a place, which will effectually cover the seed, without displacing it at all in the drills. For sowing clays, a considerable weight must be applied to the lever L, to force the coulters into the ground; and a set of wrought-iron coulters, well steeled, and made sharp at the front edge and bottom, are recommended; they will pervade the soil more readily, consequently require less draught,

draught, and expedite business more than adequate to the additional expense.

For every half acre of land intended to be sown by the machine with the seed of that very valuable root, (carrot) one bushel of saw-dust, and one pound of carrot seed, should be provided; the saw-dust should be made dry, and sifted to take out all the lumps and chips, and divided into eight equal parts or heaps; the carrot-seed should likewise be dried, and well rubbed between the hands, to take off the beards, so that it will separate readily, and being divided into eight equal parts or heaps, one part of the carrot-seed must be well mixed with one part of the saw-dust, and so on, till all the parts of carrot-seed and saw-dust are well mixed and incorporated together, in which state it may be sown very regularly in drills at twelve inches distance, by the cups or ladles, No. 2. Carrot-seed resembling saw-dust very much in its size, roughness, weight, adhesion, &c. will remain mixed as above during the sowing; a ladle full of saw-dust will, upon an average, contain three or four carrot-seeds, by which means the carrot-seed cannot be otherwise than regular in the drills. In attempting to deposit small seeds near the surface, it may so happen that some of the seeds may not be covered with soil; in which case, a light roller may be drawn over the land, after the seed is sown, which will not only cover the seeds, but will also, by levelling the surface, prepare the land for an earlier hoeing than could otherwise have taken place.

It has always been found troublesome, sometimes impracticable, to sow any kind of grain or seed (even broadcast) in a high wind. This inconvenience is entirely obviated, by placing a screen of any kind of cloth, or a sack,

hick, supported by two uprights nailed to the sides of the machine, behind the funnels, which will prevent the grain or seed being blown out of its direction in falling from the ladles into the funnels. Small pipes of tin may also be put on to the ends of the funnels, to convey the grain or seed so near the surface of the land, that the highest wind shall not be able to interrupt its descent into the drills.

That farmers may not be reduced to the necessity of sowing their land out of condition, that is, when the soil is wet and clammy, every exertion ought to be made, in ploughing up their lands ready to sow as early as possible is the season, that the first opportunity of sowing when the land is dry may be embraced; nothing bids fairer for success in the drill system, than early sowing; in which case the plants have time to throw out or multiply so many additional stems or offsets as the land is able to support. But if farmers will sow early, they must plough early, otherwise strong productive soils will not be in condition to receive the seeds; and such extraordinary advantages have been uniformly derived from ploughing up stubbles immediately after the crops have been carried, that many intelligent, experimental farmers have declared, that one furrow of the plough before winter is worth two or three in the spring.

Respecting the use of the machine, it is frequently remarked, by some people not conversant with the properties of matter and motion, that the soil will close after the coulters, before the seed is admitted into the drills. Whereas the very contrary is the case; for the velocity of the coulters, in passing through the soil, is so much greater than the velocity with which the soil closes up the drills by its own spontaneous gravity, that the incisions or drills will be constantly open for three or four inches behind the coulters;

by

by which means it is morally impossible (if the points of the funnels stand directly behind the coulter) that the seed, with the velocity it acquires in falling through the funnels, shall not be admitted into the drills.

Directions for Hoeing, &c.

THIS hoe [see the plate] is worked much in the same manner as a common Dutch hoe, or scuffle, is worked in gardens; the handle is elevated or depressed, to suit the size of the person that works it, by means of an iron wedge being respectively applied to the upper or under side of the handle that goes into the socket of the hoe.

Wheat and rye cannot be hoed too early in the spring, provided the soil be dry enough to admit of being previously rolled with a light roller; nothing facilitates and expedites hoeing for the first time, so much as rolling, by pulverizing the soil and levelling the surface; it ought nevertheless to be omitted, rather than used, if the soil be not quite dry, at least enough to quit the roller.

The wings or moulding plates of the hoe, which are calculated to earth up the soil to the rows of corn, so as to cause the roots to issue from the first joint of the stem above the surface, which otherwise would not have existed, should never be used for the first hoeing, but should always be used for the last hoeing, and used or not used, at the option of the farmer, when any intermediate hoeing is performed. The last hoeing or earthing up should not take place till the crop is eight or ten inches high; or till the young ears of corn are so far advanced in the stems, as to be above the surface of the soil, when the earthing up is finished. The young ears of corn will, on dissecting a
few

few stems, be found to exist in embryo as it were, much sooner than is generally apprehended. The absurdity of rolling any crop after the young ears are formed, and of earthing up the soil, before they are advanced in the stems above the surface of the soil, must be self-evident. In the former instance they will be crushed by the roller, in the latter they will be smothered by the soil. The young ears of corn will be found to exist, as soon as the secondary or coronal roots are formed,

The above observations on hoeing wheat and rye, are applicable to the hoeing of all spring crops; only the first hoeing of barley, oats, &c. should take place as soon as the second blade or leaf of the young plant appears; and of beans, pease, &c. as soon as the plants can be distinguished in the rows.

The best season for hoeing is two or three days after rain, or so soon after rain as the soil will quit the instrument in hoeing. Light dry soils may be hoed almost at any time, but this is far from being the case with strong clay soils; the season for hoeing such is frequently short and precarious; every opportunity therefore should be carefully watched, and eagerly embraced. The two extremes of wet and dry are great enemies of vegetation in strong clay soils; the bad effects of the former, though difficult to guard against, are nevertheless to be remedied in some measure by ploughs of a better construction, and more properly conducted, than such as are commonly met with in strong clay soils. For if the wing or feather of the plough-share were made nearly as wide as the intended furrow, and fixed so as to move parallel to the surface of the land, the under side of every furrow would be

cut

cut parallel to the surface, and a smooth floor or surface polished by the bottom of the plough would be found under every furrow, forming a regular plane with an uniform descent from the top of a ridge into the water-furrow; upon which polished floor or surface, all superfluous water, after filtering through the loose soil, or furrows turned over by the plough, would find its way readily and precipitately into the water-furrow, at least so as to prevent its stagnating in the soil, so as to starve the plants. But so far from guarding as much as possible against the bad effects of superfluous water stagnating in clay soils, by the above palpable process in ploughing, the construction of the ploughs commonly made use of, and the method of conducting them in strong clays in several parts of this kingdom, have a direct tendency to the contrary; this is done by working their ploughs in such a position, that the wing or feather of the share, being neither so wide as the intended furrow, nor parallel to the surface when at work, but forming an angle of forty or fifty degrees with the same, or, in other words, moving in an oblique direction to the surface, turns over not a square or parallel, but a triangular furrow. In which case it is self-evident, that such lands are only half-ploughed; there being so many ridges of fast undisturbed soil, as there are furrows, forming so many troughs or trenches, that of all the superfluous water that shall fall upon such lands, so much only as shall remain over and above filling the trenches will be able to find its way into the water-furrows; for some clay soils, indeed all soils when puddled, will hold water like a dish; consequently so much water as the above trenches shall contain, will remain there till it is evaporated by sun and air, starving the plants, and puddling the soil to such a degree, that the nutritive quality in the food of plants may become

become so far impaired as not to be restored; or if it should, the tender fibres of the roots of plants may be so putrified by stagnated water as to be incapable ever after of answering their intended purpose in promoting vegetation.

As to the bad effects of strong clay soils caking in dry weather nothing more easy to prevent; for there is a period between the time of clay soils running together, so as to puddle by superfluous wet, and the time of their caking by drought, that they are as tractable as need be. Now this is the time, this is the juncture for hoeing; and so much land as shall be thus seasonably hoed, will not cake or crust upon the surface, as it otherwise would have done, till it has been soaked or drenched again with rain; in which case the hoeing is to be repeated, as soon as the soil will quit the instrument, and as often as necessary; by which time, the growing crop will begin to cover the ground, so as to act as a screen to the surface of the land, against the intense heat of the sun, and thereby prevent, in great measure, the bad effects of the soil's caking in dry weather.

When land is to be laid down with seeds, the seeds must not be sown, as usual, with the grain, but the day the last hoeing is to be performed. If seeds are sown when barley is sown, hoeing is excluded, consequently the great advantages of drilling are frustrated; but not being sown till the last hoeing is just going to take place, every purpose is answered. For the crop is not only improved by hoeing, but the soil in the spaces between the rows of corn, being cleared from weeds, and pulverized by hoeing, will be in much better condition to receive the seeds; and the seeds being sown broadcast just before the last hoeing, will be incorporated with the soil by the action of the hoe, so as

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to vegetate much better, and produce a much better crop than usual. The wings or moulding plates of the hoe may, or may not be used at all upon land that is to lie down with feeds.

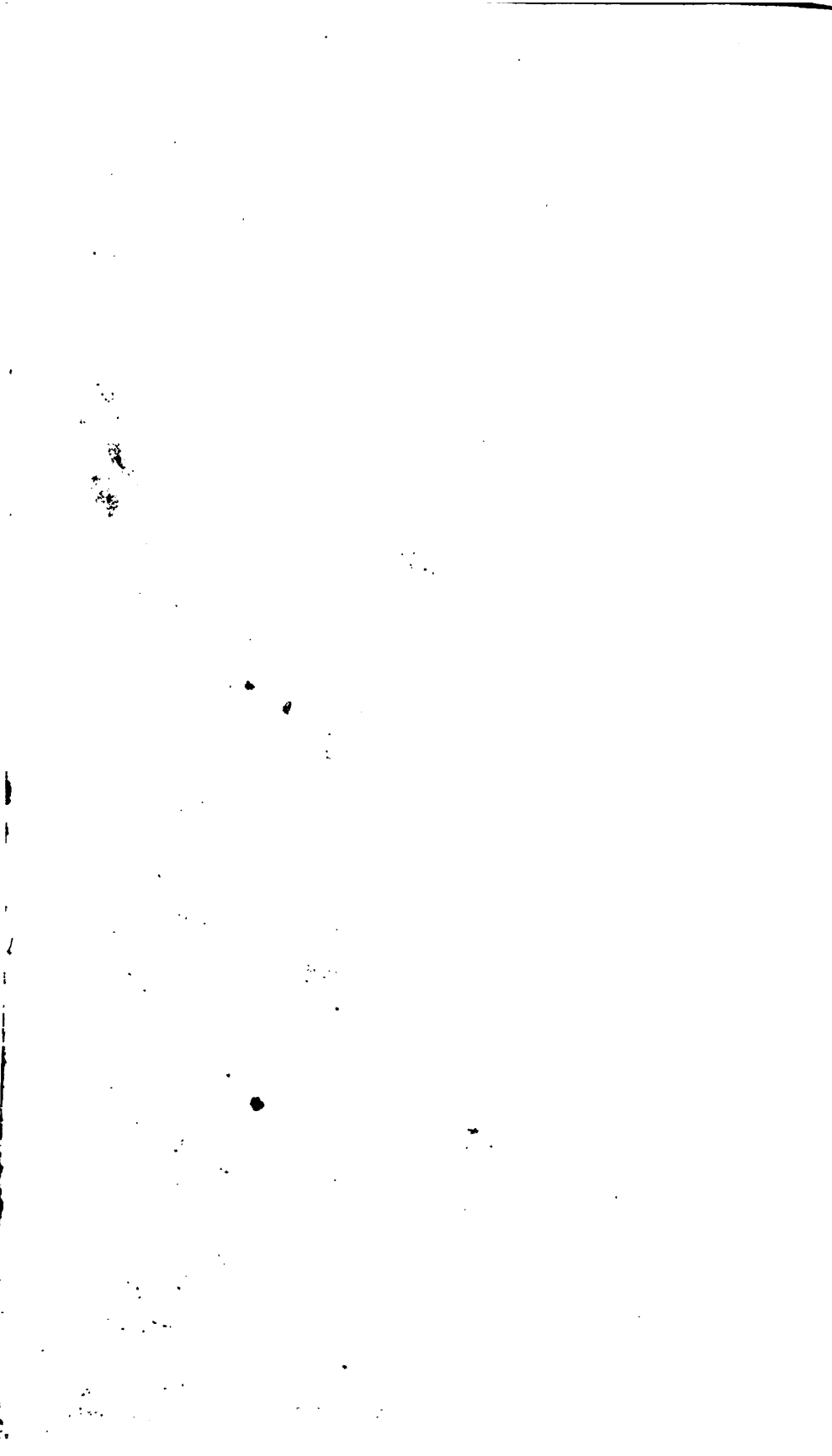
Such strong weeds as may grow directly in the rows of corn, and out of the reach of the hoe to cut up, should be plucked up by hand, to prevent their coming to maturity, and dropping their seeds upon the soil, that has been previously made clean by hoeing.

These machines (with five coulter price sixteen guineas ; with four coulter, fifteen guineas) equally excel in setting or planting all sorts of grain and seeds, even carrot-seed, to exactness, after the rate of from eight to ten chain acres per day, with one man, a boy, and two horses. They deposit the grain or seed in any given quantity from one peck to three bushels per acre, regularly and uniformly, and that without grinding or bruising the seed, and at any given depth, from half an inch to half a dozen inches, in rows at the distance of twelve, sixteen, and twenty-four inches, or any other distance. They are equally useful on all lands, are durable, easy to manage, and by no means subject to be put out of repair.

The Dublin Society, have not yet got a model of this Machine, it is to be seen in London, at the White Bear, Basing-hall-Street ; at Mr. Gatsfelds, No. 45, Newgate-Street, and at Mr. Mathew's, Bath.



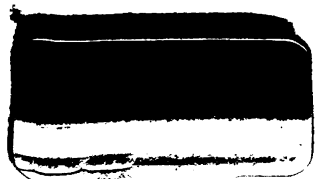




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